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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

STANLEY WESTON
Founder

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CENTERFOLD
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PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED (ISSN: 1043-7576) is published monthly by London Publishing Co., 7002 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Second-class postage paid at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and additional post offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to "Pro Wrestling Illustrated," P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price \$2.50 (\$2.95 in Canada, £1.95 in U.K.) Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. **FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:** (310) 572-7272. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Company Inc., 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036. International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. Printed in U.S.A.

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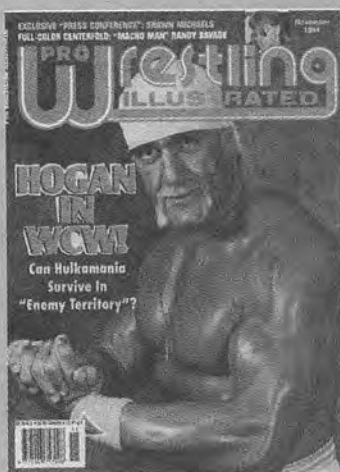
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HOGAN, WCW STYLE

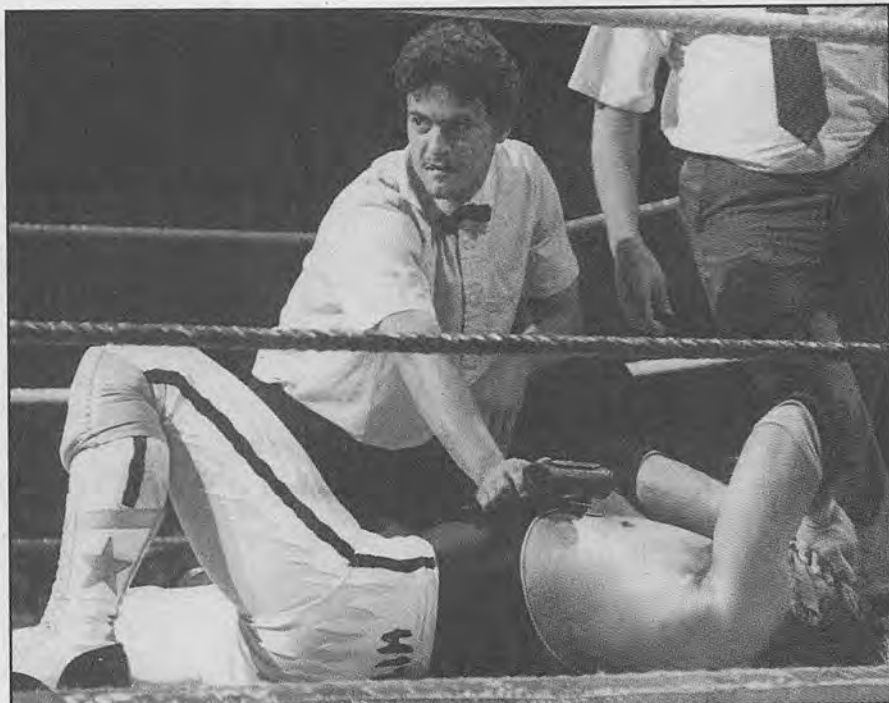


In our November 1994 issue, we wondered if Hulk Hogan could win the WCW World title ... and the federation's fans. He captured the former, and apparently stands a good chance of capturing the latter, according to our readers.

"I've been a Ric Flair fan for years, but I don't hate Hulk Hogan," wrote Alexander Spencer of Cherokee, North Carolina. "Both have accomplished a lot. WCW fans have an open mind. Hulk carries no baggage as far as I'm concerned."

"Boo Hulk Hogan? That's like booing apple pie," wrote Sharon DiCarlo of Port Henry, New York. "All that noise from stock-car racing must have affected the brains of those WCW fans down South."

"It's bad enough Hogan came down here to WCW, but now so have Hacksaw Duggan, Honky Tonk Man, and Jimmy Hart," wrote Duncan Fleming of Dublin, Georgia. "As a longtime fan of WCW, I resent seeing my beloved federation turned into a WWF old-timers' division."



WWF referee Joey Marella (shown with Bret Hart in 1992), who died in a car crash July 4, will be missed by reader H.M. Carlin, who has fond memories of Marella's rapport with federation fans.

HE WILL BE MISSED

The car crash that took the life of Joseph A. Marella on July 4 did more than take one of the premier referees from the sport. It robbed wrestling fans of a friend.

I became a wrestling fan shortly after Wrestlemania III, a time when the name Joey Marella was on everyone's lips. WWF announcers talked about his officiating of the infamous Hulk Hogan/Andre the Giant match for months afterward and so he became a part of my wrestling education long before I saw him. That controversial match is probably how most fans will remember Joey. He made a difficult call and handled the heat afterward with characteristic charm and poise.

But I have a different picture etched

in my mind—memories of him laughing and talking with the ringside fans at the Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey, smiling in a self-deprecating way when we cheered approvingly for our local hero.

Joseph A. Marella accomplished much in his life. He leaves behind a career rich in wrestling history, having officiated many classic matches, and a life rich in dignity, having developed into a man his father can be proud of. But Joey was too young to become part of history. In addition to all he contributed, there still should have been more to come. A referee was taken from wrestling and that is sad for the sport. Even sadder, a dear friend was taken from us much too soon.

H.M. CARLIN
Lodi, NJ

HOGAN'S TOPS!

He has done it! Hulk Hogan has defeated Ric Flair! I knew he could do it! Anybody with half a brain knew he could do it! The great thing about it is that he did it with such ease while Flair and Sherri Martel tried everything in their power to take Hogan down. Flair, as usual, resorted to his cheating tactics in order to win, but nothing they could do could stop Hogan.

Now it is time for all of you fans who thought Flair could beat Hogan, all of you so-called experts and journalists (especially you, Eddie Ellner!), and all you greats of yesteryear to apologize! Apologize for questioning Hogan's skill, and for poisoning the fans' minds with that bogus prediction that Flair would prevail. I am prepared to serve you crow when you all are ready to eat it. Now that Hogan has finally beaten Flair, I am ready to consider Hogan's ring career complete.

MARC BRAUN
Woodland Hills, CA

IMMORTAL PHONY

I am 21 years old and have been a wrestling fan since I was 10. I have been reading *PWI* for over five years now and I've watched the rise and fall of Vince McMahon and the WWF. I've watched the rise, fall, and rise once again of NWA/WCW. But I have just witnessed the biggest tragedy ever in the sport of wrestling.

"The Immortal Phony" Hulk Hogan has just cleanly pinned the greatest wrestler of all time, Ric Flair. I am still in shock. Hogan ruined the WWF by turning it into a circus, and I fear he'll do the same within WCW. Ric Flair will always be the greatest wrestler of all-time, with or without the belt. Hogan will never match the wrestling ability Flair still possesses.

I made a promise to stop watching wrestling if Hogan cleanly pinned the "Nature Boy" for the belt. I'm sad to say that wrestling has lost a true fan and probably many more.

CHRIS BERTHELSON
Waterbury, CT

PHILLY FREEDOM

In my opinion, the wrestling fans of Philadelphia have been getting a bum rap. True, Philly fans are unique. So what



Philadelphia fans have a booster from afar in reader Richard Evans. He admires their support of outlandish Eastern Championship Wrestling and its violent matches involving the likes of Kevin Sullivan and Jimmy Snuka.

if they would boo Santa Claus? This is a democratic nation with a free market economy. It is their (and any wrestling fan's) prerogative.

Philadelphia fans have been called "hostile." If hostile means willing to refuse the opiate for the masses offered by the WWF and WCW, then so be it. Remember, Philly fans support one of the few viable, lucrative independent promotions today (Eastern Championship Wrestling).

At worst, Philly fans can lapse into tastelessness, chanting "We Want Blood!" during a recent WCW pay-per-view event. ECW seems to be the future of pro wrestling with its smash-mouth, brawling, outlandish style. Should the Keystone State's residents be reviled for embracing men who give their all in the ring such as Sabu, Terry Funk, Cactus Jack, Eddie Gilbert, and Kevin Sullivan?

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RING

50

With Bill Apter



Who ever thought that Bob Backlund would become a rulebreaker? While the WWF is promotes its "New Generation," the former World champ is attacking Bret Hart and other good folks.

VINCE McMAHON IS not guilty of conspiring to distribute steroids to WWF wrestlers. That's what a jury in Uniondale, New York, decided on July 22.

The decision—which was met by wild applause from wrestling fans in the federal courtroom—ended the WWF head's legal battle with the U.S. government that had lasted several years. U.S. District Judge **Jacob Mishler** dismissed steroid distribution charges against McMahon several days earlier.

"I'm elated," the 48-year-old McMahon said outside the courtroom. "Just like in wrestling, the good guys always win."

(For complete details, please turn to page 39.)

With his legal problems behind him and his neck healing, might McMahon finally think about stepping into the ring, perhaps to settle the dispute he had with **Jerry Lawler** in Memphis last year? As McMahon might say, "You never know what will happen in the WWF."

Back inside the ring, some very interesting things are happening. **Bob Backlund** is definitely a rulebreaker now. He says the fans have changed since his years as World champion and was none too complimentary about current champ **Bret Hart** and some of the other WWF superstars.

The **Irwin R. Schyster-Tatanka** feud heated up over the summer. Remember that the taxman won most of their initial matches by disqualification when Tatanka struck the referee. Tatanka has gotten revenge by beating IRS in Indian strap matches. Incidentally, Schyster and **Bam Bam Bigelow** have formed a regular team; **Ted DiBiase**, Schyster's former partner in **Money Inc.**, is advising them.

The **Lex Luger-Crush** feud also got even more violent as they began wrestling in stretcher matches. Crush has been no match for Lex in those.

Give **Duke "The Dumpster" Droese** credit for challenging **Jerry Lawler**. Droese, who was last in the 1993 "PWI 500," has surprised "The King" with his skills. Unfortunately for him, he's been overanxious in many matches and has used his trusty garbage can as a weapon, thereby getting himself disqualified.

Let's hear it for **Adam Bomb**. He accomplished next to nothing as a rulebreaker under

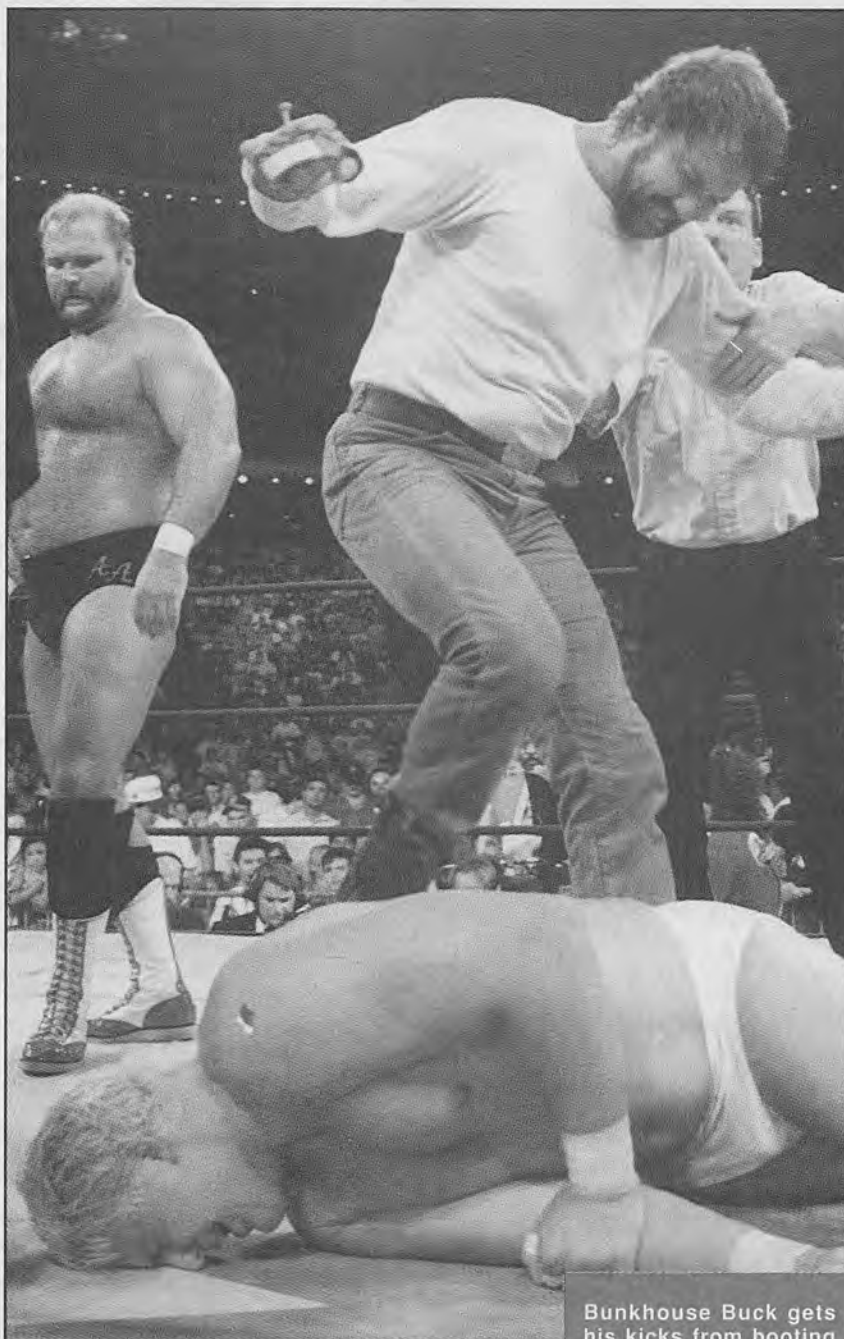
Harvey Wippleman, but he's done well since splitting with his manager. He's beaten **Pierre**, **Kwang the Ninja**, and others since turning fan favorite. I hear he's seeking a shot at the Intercontinental title.

Also, look for **Shawn Michaels**, who's wrestling again, and I-C champ **Diesel** to get shots at **The Headshrinkers'** World tag team title.

When **Dustin Rhodes** began wrestling, he credited his father, **Dusty**, for teaching him about the sport. He also said he deserved no special treatment based on who his father was and wanted to carve out his own identity. He's done well on his own, but I bet he's now glad he can count on his father when he needs him. **Dusty** came out of retirement to help his son battle **Col. Robert Parker's Stud Stable**, which now counts **Arn Anderson** among its members.

Dusty and Dustin have already had some dressing room-clearing altercations with **Anderson**, **Terry Funk**, **Bunkhouse Buck**, and bodyguard **Meng**. Apparently, the Rhodes family can now count **The Nasty Boys** among its allies. The two-time former WCW World tag team champions are competing as fan favorites after a few run-ins with **Paul Orndorff** and **Paul Roma**, but they're still as Nasty as ever.

Marcus Alexander Bagwell and **The Patriot** have beaten Orndorff and Roma many times in non-title bouts, but there are other teams lining up for title shots in WCW. **The Bruise Brothers** debuted in the federation recently, but didn't have too much luck when they ran into **Hulk Hogan** and **Sting**; they lost the match in 48 seconds. Hogan has won five world titles in the



Bunkhouse Buck gets his kicks from booting Dustin Rhodes, as Arn Anderson watches. Anderson deserted Dustin during the match, joining Col. Robert Parker's Stud Stable. However, father Dusty Rhodes is now getting involved.

WWF and one in WCW. Maybe he's looking to add a tag team title to his resume now.

Former champions **Cactus Jack** and **Kevin Sullivan** aren't getting along too well. Sullivan seems to be more comfortable wrestling as a rulebreaker and says he and Jack could still be great even if they don't like each other. Kevin is now teaming with his brother **Evad**, who returned after missing several months with a serious knee injury.

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from the desk of...
Stuart M. Saks

"Hulkamania Runs Wild Again" is the theme of this special issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. It celebrates a very special athlete and his very special accomplishment. Although this magazine has at times been one of the strongest critics of Hulk Hogan, it's time to give credit where it's due. And in this case, it's definitely due.

Coming out of a one-year-plus retirement to win a world championship against one of the greatest wrestlers of all-time is an accomplishment that can't be compared to any other in pro sports. I can't think of an equivalent, unless Mike Tyson gets out of jail and wins the world heavyweight boxing championship a few months later. But that wouldn't be the same because there's no boxer today comparable to Ric Flair.

A lot of things had to go right for Hogan to win his first WCW World title. Sherri Martel's interference was not only damaging to her purse, it was damaging to Flair, who at several times was in charge of the match when Sherri interfered. Flair has always been the wrestler who sets the rhythm of a match, and he can't have that rhythm broken. It's like a fan throwing something on the ice during a hockey game when his team is making a comeback. The game is stopped and the momentum is halted.

Hogan was also fortunate that the match wasn't stopped when referee Randy Anderson was knocked out. Nick Patrick rushed to the ring and let the match continue. Bravo to Patrick, who realized a disqualification would have penalized the winner more than the loser because the title wouldn't have changed hands.

Finally, I'm convinced Hogan was helped by having his initial WCW match in Orlando, Florida, a

(Continued on page 54)

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in focus

By Craig Peters

FREEDOM OF SPEECH ... BUT FOR HOW LONG?

There's a tag team in the Smoky Mountain area that's getting a lot of attention lately. But it's not for their physiques, their repertoire of finishing maneuvers, or their ability to win championships.

It's for their interviews.

The Gangstas are the duo of Mustafa Saed and New Jack. They come to the ring with their own security team, and it's no wonder: Their interviews are the most venomously racist and hate-filled few minutes anywhere on television this side of the Rodney King video.

During one interview, they stated that they were happy that Martin Luther King was killed. During another interview, they talked about "putting the Reginald Denny on the white boys" (Denny was the truck driver beaten at a Los Angeles intersection the day the Rodney King verdict was announced). Another time, they congratulated O.J. Simpson because now there were two less of "them" (i.e. white people) to worry about.

That such raw hatred exists is, sadly, no surprise. That SMW officials allow it to become a centerpiece of their television program is.

But it may not be for long.

Already, several stations that carry Smoky's syndicated pro-

gram are threatening to cancel the show. At least one station—in Johnson City, Tennessee, the heart of SMW country—has taken to running disclaimers and bleeping The Gangstas' interviews.

I'm no ardent champion of political correctness. I find it absurd that real estate agents are criticized for referring to something as "a walk-in closet" because some people who might consider living there can't walk.

By the same token, though, these are the most racially charged times since the mid-'60s, and common sense ought to prevail.

The Gangstas should clean up their act ... or Smoky Mountain, faced with losing their network of syndicated stations, should clean it up for them.

WHY, BOB? WHY? WHY?

Is everyone else as stunned as I am that Bob Backlund has turned his back on the fans?

Backlund personified an era in the WWF. He was the bridge between Bruno Sammartino and Hulk Hogan, and he was as pure an expression of athletic excellence the sport has ever known. People still talk about how he performed the Harvard step test—a grueling aerobic fitness challenge—for a full hour on one installment of televised WWF wrestling. At the end of the step test, Backlund was barely winded.

During a match, Backlund virtually never broke the rules, and had to be pushed pretty darn far to even bend them.

And in terms of attitude, he always had the utmost





Madison Square Garden for years restricted its usage to the WWF. With Hulk Hogan sitting as WCW World champion, Garden execs have allowed access to the rival promotion. The big card is scheduled for November 26.

respect for the sport itself. When Superstar Graham destroyed the WWF World title belt in the early-'80s, Backlund was literally reduced to tears as he howled to the heavens: "Why? Why? Why?"

Why is Backlund at war with the fans? Is he bitter because the sport passed him by? Is he having trouble coming to grips with the fact that the Backlund era is long gone? Is he trying to recapture a shred of the success he once enjoyed?

No matter what the answers, the fact of the matter is that the Bob Backlund legacy, once as pure as the proverbial driven snow, is forever tainted.

If Backlund can embrace rulebreaking, then anyone—even Hulk Hogan or Rick Steamboat—is vulnerable.

What a shame.

WCW AT MSG

Always there was the big tease. WCW (or, years ago, the NWA) was going to test the waters in the Northeast, and ultimately challenge the WWF for the rights to the premier sports arena in the nation, Madison Square Garden.

In 1984, when wrestling telecasts on SuperStation TBS were the highest-rated shows on cable-TV, the NWA held a card at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena, less than 10 miles from Midtown Manhattan. Despite

the fact that less than half the fans knew who the wrestlers were, the card, which featured an all-time classic main event between Rick Steamboat and Ric Flair, was a major success.

In the late-'80s, as Jim Crockett Promotions began to outgrow itself, the NWA ran cards at Long Island's Nassau Coliseum on a semi-regular basis. The lasting memory is one of disaster, as its final card, in January 1988, played to a half-empty arena that was three-quarters empty for the first hour because the tickets had the wrong starting time. The card lasted all of two hours, and only half that for those who didn't know of the time switch. Besieged with complaints, the Coliseum politely declined to invite the NWA back.

When Ted Turner bought Jim Crockett Promotions 10 months later, the man in charge of wrestling, Jack Petrik, spoke confidently about using his boss' might to muscle into Madison Square Garden. The closest they got was the Garden's little sister building, The Paramount, in April 1993. There were 1,500 empty seats in the 5,000-seat theater.

As the major section beginning on page 34 attests, much has happened to WCW since that day. Hulk Hogan is no Moses, but he is leading WCW to the promised land. Madison Square Garden. November 26. Will they be back in '95? The answer to that question will tell us much about the future of WCW. □

win or lose draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

ONE OF THE advantages print reporters have over their TV counterparts is that they're usually not recognized by the public. So they don't have to deal with the idiots who like to harass the people they see on their screens.

The other night I took advantage of this advantage and sat in the midst of a crowd for an evening of wrestling. I ventured to Saucon, Pennsylvania, for "Saucon Slam '94," presented by the American Commonwealth Wrestling at the Saucon Fest. I even bought a ticket, a switch for those of us who cover wrestling for a living.

The first bout pitted The Comet against J.R. Willett. I had seen neither of them compete before. Though Comet's athleticism was somewhat less sensational than the meteors that smashed into Jupiter, he wrestled well and won. During the match, I noticed a middle-aged woman staring at me. She confronted me right before the second bout started.

"You look familiar," she said hoarsely. "Have I seen you somewhere before?"

"I don't think so, ma'am," I answered.

"Well," she responded, "you *still* look familiar." She took her seat and was quiet for the rest of the night. Something about her spooked me.

Next was Max Thrasher vs. Mad Mack Diesel. I was familiar with Thrasher. As for Mack Diesel, if he had fought with a fraction of the WWF's Diesel's determination, he may have had a chance. Yes, Thrasher thrashed him.

After I got up to stretch my legs, I felt a tapping on my shoulder. I turned to see a young man, in his early- to mid-20s, wearing a Phillies cap.

"Hey, don't I know you?" he insisted.

"It's possible," said I, "but I don't think we've ever met."

"Maybe so," he conceded. "But I could swear I know you from somewhere."

He didn't worry me, but I was beginning to feel as though something strange was happening. I had trou-

(Continued on page 56)



It was a weird night for Andy Rodriguez when he watched an independent card in Pennsylvania. Thankfully, the tag team match involving partners Tommy Dreamer (left) and Johnny Gunn was a respite from the madness.

TAKE US ON!



#1: Big Ben



#2: Ace Stevens



#3: Jaeger van Dorn



#4: Bodybag Jones



#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage



#6: Eric Darkstrom



#7: Nook the Secret Weapon



#8: Derek Craven



#9: El Diablo Sanchez



#10: Tygar Singh

WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE AXEHANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

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SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. DDT
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

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NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE) _____

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT _____

WRESTLER'S WEIGHT _____

SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER _____

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU) _____

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

Finishing Hold: Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces.

FINISHING HOLD _____

Opponents: Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose \$1⁰⁰ for each.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____



THE \$6-MILLION QUESTION.

See if you can follow me:

If wrestling's so-called experts, and the elitist group of fans that places itself above the hoi polloi, are right, then WCW is a circus and in second place behind the WWF in any ranking of U.S.-based federations.

For years, these "smart fans" and the insider experts scoffed at the WWF's circus atmosphere, the one that brought us Honky Tonk Man, Doink the Clown, Zeus, football players as wrestlers, glitz over substance, and, worst of all, Hulk Hogan. They claimed WCW had a better quality of "real" wrestling, whatever that means, and superior all-around wrestlers, such as The Four Horsemen, The Road Warriors, Sting, Rick Rude, etc.

But now the tables have turned. Hogan jumped to WCW, and Brutus Beefcake and Hacksaw Duggan soon followed. WCW now features Bobby "The Brain" Heenan as a ringside commentator, Gene Okerlund as roving reporter, and windy Michael Buffer as its ring announcer for Clashes and pay-per-views. The production has never been schmalztier, especially when WCW paraded out Hogan at Disney World.

While all this is happening, the same people who derided the WWF for its circus atmosphere are celebrating the obvious emerging of WCW over the WWF. WCW is now king of the U.S. federations and nobody seems to have a problem with that.

Know why?

It's because the WWF, refusing to take advantage of the situation and fighting desperately for its image as the premier circus federation in the world, has responded with a roster of carnival-like wrestlers who make the old WWF look like Japan on a good night.

Sparky Plugg, Pierre, Kwang the



Shawn Michaels and Bret Hart are two of just five wrestlers whom Chris Bernucca feels are worth paying to watch wrestle in the WWF. Contrarily, our columnist notes there are eight in WCW.

Ninja, Adam Bomb, Duke "The Dumpster" Droese, Men on a Mission, Well Dunn. The WWF is a bigger joke than ever before, but this time it's a big joke without the big names.

If worse had come to worst in court this past July, Vince McMahon's lawyers could have gotten him off the hook merely by claiming an insanity defense. How else can we explain what's happened with the previously invincible Vince's promotional mind?

A hunt through the WWF ratings turns up only five wrestlers who are arguably worth paying to watch: Bret Hart, Owen Hart, Lex Luger, Shawn Michaels, and Jerry Lawler. WCW has eight. What's happened here is that WCW has managed to corral all the big stars without resorting too much to the circus atmosphere that turned off so many fans during the WWF's power years.

How has it done so? Paradoxically, with a stunning lack of imagination. It's obvious that WCW's greatest asset in these bumper crop times is its ignorance and inability to overpromote or even promote. Where Vince McMahon would be screaming into his microphone, Tony Schiavone is telling us in a monotone that WCW "has the greatest stars and the greatest wrestling." It's a lot easier on the ears.

Nobody expects Hogan to stick around forever. He has too many fires burning and doesn't seem interested in going back on the arena circuit (if he was ever on it to begin with). What WCW does have is Hogan to draw the young fans and the neophytes, Flair for the diehards, and Sting for the women. What WCW has actually done is take the best of the old WWF and



After Bob Backlund was injured in losing the WWF title to The Iron Sheik in 1983, he was unable to wrestle in the rematch and replaced by Hulk Hogan. When Hogan won the belt, the WWF refused to give Backlund a shot. Maybe that's when he should have turned bad, Bernucca argues.

combined it with the best of the old NWA.

It had to be purely an accident.

BAD BOY BACKLUND. Bob Backlund is becoming a rulebreaker. Now turn the tables and go back in time, about 10 years.

Backlund, the consummate country boy fan favorite, has lost the WWF World title to The Iron Sheik. Backlund can't make it to the rematch and Hogan replaces him. Hogan, as the story goes, wins the World title from The Iron Sheik and a legend is born. Backlund never gets a shot at Hogan and "Hulk-amanía" burns out of control.

What if Backlund, who should have been incensed by the WWF ignoring him (and, by all accounts, was extremely mad), turned against the fans and the fan favorites, hired a manager, attacked Hogan, and

demanding title shots? A lot of people are convinced Hogan's title reign would've lasted all of about six weeks.

Backlund couldn't go against his very nature and his career fizzled. But now, years later and far too late, he is showing an ugly side. Bob, your timing is way off.

Backlund never learned that change is good and there's nothing wrong with standing up for yourself when the situation dictates it. The WWF turned its back on a fine champion and ushered in a new era that was against everything he had stood for. In everybody's mind, the WWF made a fool of Backlund.

This scenario was brought to you by the Minnesota Vikings, who are still wondering what might have happened if they didn't trade the franchise for Herschel Walker. □



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Ellner's mailbag,
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your letter, it sounds derogatory, and if I'm going to be misquoted, at least I want the error to be something I might have said. According to Andy Ward of the Carolina Riding Academy, "Horsewomen are accomplished riders who must handle their mount with calm, elegance, and dexterity." I don't think I would call Dusty Rhodes a horsewoman. It sounds to me a skilled horsewoman is needed to ride Dusty Rhodes. Care to apply for the job?

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

Dear Eddie,

How can you call Dusty Rhodes a horsewoman. If anyone's a horsewoman, it's you. If you got off your lazy butt, put on wrestling tights, and got in the ring with Dusty Rhodes, you would never call him a horsewoman again, because you wouldn't be able to talk!

JOHN BAUMER
Tigard, OR

Dear Eddie,

Do you think Pedro Morales in his prime could beat Bret Hart? Is Morales in the WWF Hall of Fame?

JUNIOR MERCADO
Miami Beach, FL

Dear Junior,

It's my belief that before a steaming, packed house of Hispanic fans screaming his name, Pedro Morales could have singlehandedly won the Gulf War. Don't ask me why. He was

short, pudgy, and blessed with fewer wrestling skills than Hulk Hogan. But he couldn't let down his amigos. Every important match Morales lost took place outside New York. If he wrestled Bret Hart today in Madison Square Garden, I wouldn't bet against him. A better question regarding the imaginary WWF Hall of Fame (thankfully the structure doesn't exist) would be: Could Hogan be

in it? Given his current *persona non grata* status, I doubt he would, and that's all you need to

(Continued on page 60)

IT WAS POINTED out to me by an enthusiastic managing editor that David Letterman was caught reading a copy of our sister publication *Wrestling Superstars* on his CBS show recently. This created much hoopla (don't you love that word ... hoo-pla!) in our home office out there in Ambler, Pennsylvania. Of course, Dave's fetish for contemporary wrestling periodicals comes as no surprise to me. We discussed the grappling game at length during a recent fly-fishing trip. If you've ever seen Ol' Dave tie a mealworm, you'd know he wasn't there just to pass the time. He fished as if his family was starving, and in between gave me his top five reasons why he reads *Wrestling Superstars*—Number five: His subscription to *Embalming Illustrated* ran out. Number four: For the recipes and coupons. Number three: He was Gorgeous George in a past life. Number two: His mother manages under an assumed name. And the number one reason he reads *Wrestling Superstars*: He is proud to be an American, dammit!

Dear John,

I don't recall the word "horse-



Let's get this straight: I never called Dusty Rhodes a horsewoman. I could think of some other phrases involving horses that I'd call ol' Dusty, though.

woman" ever emerging from my thoughts or mouth—I'm not even sure of its meaning or derivation. But from the strident tone of

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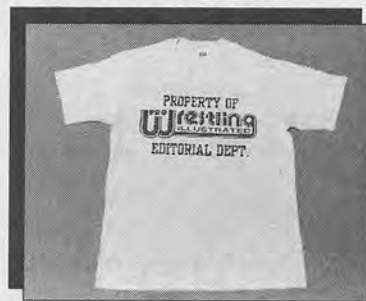
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What manager brought Hulk Hogan to the WWF in 1979?

- 1) Capt. Lou Albano
- 2) The Grand Wizard
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Arnold Skaaland

Which of the following wrestlers did Lex Luger *not* defeat to capture one of his four U.S. heavyweight titles?

- 1) Nikita Koloff
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Michael Hayes
- 4) Stan Hansen

True or False: Dusty Rhodes was once managed by rulebreaking manager Gary Hart.

- 1) True
- 2) False

How did Ric Flair severely injure his back in October 1975?

- 1) Airplane crash
- 2) Ring injury
- 3) Automobile accident
- 4) None of the above

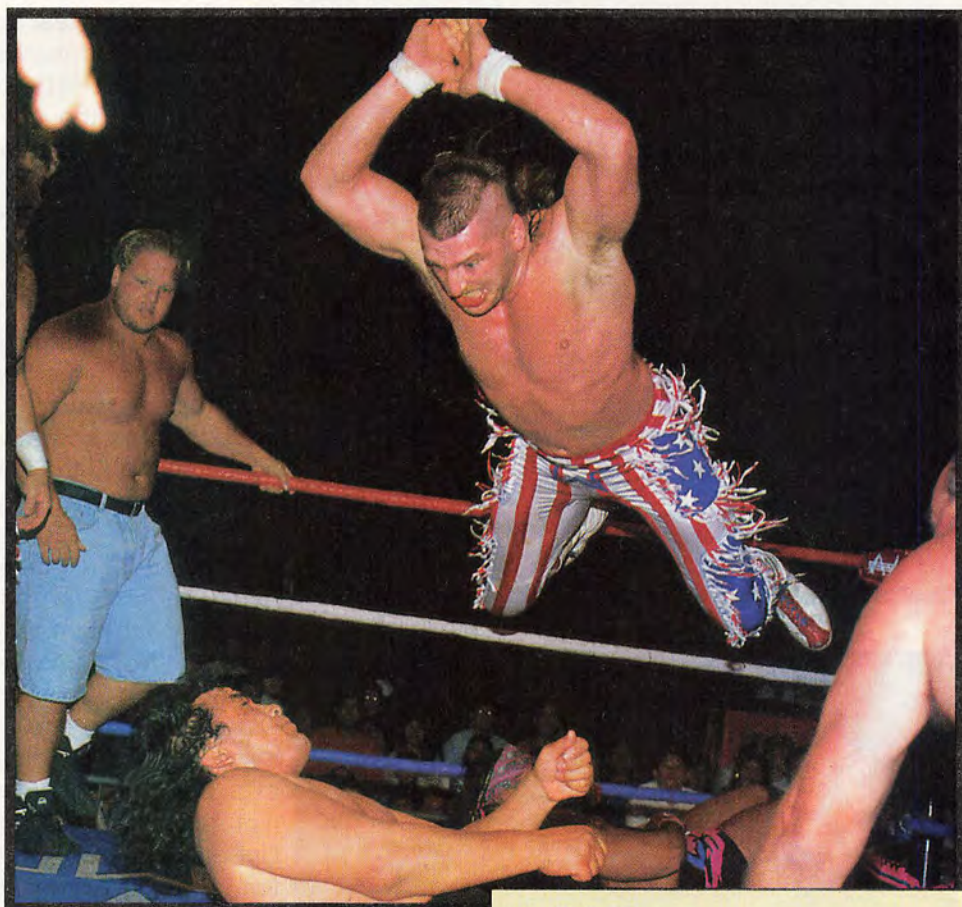
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Straight A's for AAA:

"THIS IS THE BEST WRESTLING I'VE EVER SEEN!"



Fans in Chicago and New York got to see firsthand what Mexican wrestling was all about. They were impressed with the quality of competition, although the environment was far different than what they are used to

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

By V.J. Paterno

THEODORE GORMLEY IS your typical avid Chicago sports fan. He'll chant "Na-na-hey-hey" after White Sox slugger Frank Thomas blasts one into the Comiskey Park bleachers, or go wild when the Blackhawks put the puck in the opposing goalie's net.

But Gormley, who lives in suburban Berwyn, also has a passion for pro wrestling. He watched Ric Flair defend his WCW World title at Spring Stampede, and was among the first to get tickets for the WWF's SummerSlam '94 card at the new United Center. He regularly attends Windy City Wrestling events.

In July, Gormley saw a newspaper ad for a card at the suburban Rosemont Horizon. But it wasn't promoting WCW or the WWF. Instead,

Midget matches, long relegated to novelty status on many U.S. cards, is an integral part of Mexican wrestling. Octagoncito leaps onto Jerrito Estrada as Mascarita Sagrada looks on.



Sagrada exhibits incredible athleticism for someone who's barely three feet tall and weighs 80 pounds. Estrada learns the hard way, as Sagrada jumps off the top rope.

most of the names sounded strange, foreign.

"Octagon? Sounds like a hand soap," he recalled. "Rey Misterio Jr.? Cien Caras? Who are these guys?"

They were from Mexico's AAA promotion, which held a card in conjunction with IWC. This and a New York date were the first cards they had held outside California. IWC/AAA had been phenomenally successful in Los Angeles, including a 1993 sellout that turned 8,000 fans away from the 17,000-seat Sports Arena.

As a lark, Gormley decided to take it in.

"I'd heard a little bit about Mexican wrestling, and thought I'd give it a look," he said. "At the very least, it would be an interesting comparison to the wrestling I'm used to. And there were some names I was familiar with on the card: 2 Cold Scorpio, Tito Santana, Jake Roberts, even American Love Machine. I'd seen film of him with Tonya Harding.

"There are more Mexicans in Chicago than people realize," Gormley noted. "I pass through some Mexican neighborhoods on the El the few times I venture to Wrigley Field on the North Side for Cub games—as a Sox fan, I'm almost ashamed to admit that—but I was so surprised to see that many trek out to the suburbs that night. They really love their wrestling. Now I know why."

About 6,100 fans were on hand to watch. Promoters could only imagine how many might have attended if it had been at a place accessible to mass transit. (Future cards may be held in town at the University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion, a former NWA/WCW venue.)

Later, Gormley praised what he had watched. "This is the best wrestling I've ever seen!" he said of the IWC/AAA card. "Lots of aerial moves, non-stop action. Far more tag team wrestling than you see in the States. I like that. And there's no American equivalent of the midgets, who are great."

His opinions were echoed by several other non-Hispanic fans who went to the Horizon and to New York's Paramount the

following day.

"Excellent competition," said Janice Jensen of North Arlington, New Jersey. "I can't compare it with the WWF, because it's different, not necessarily better or worse. I won't stop following the WWF, but I'm definitely interested in seeing more Mexican wrestling. If they come back here, so will I."

IWC/AAA gained one vocal fan in New York—iconoclastic WABC talk show host Lionel. He raved about the wrestling on his program the next morning.

(Ironically, Lionel took over the drive-time slot from Curtis and Lisa Sliwa, who have wrestling connections of their own.)

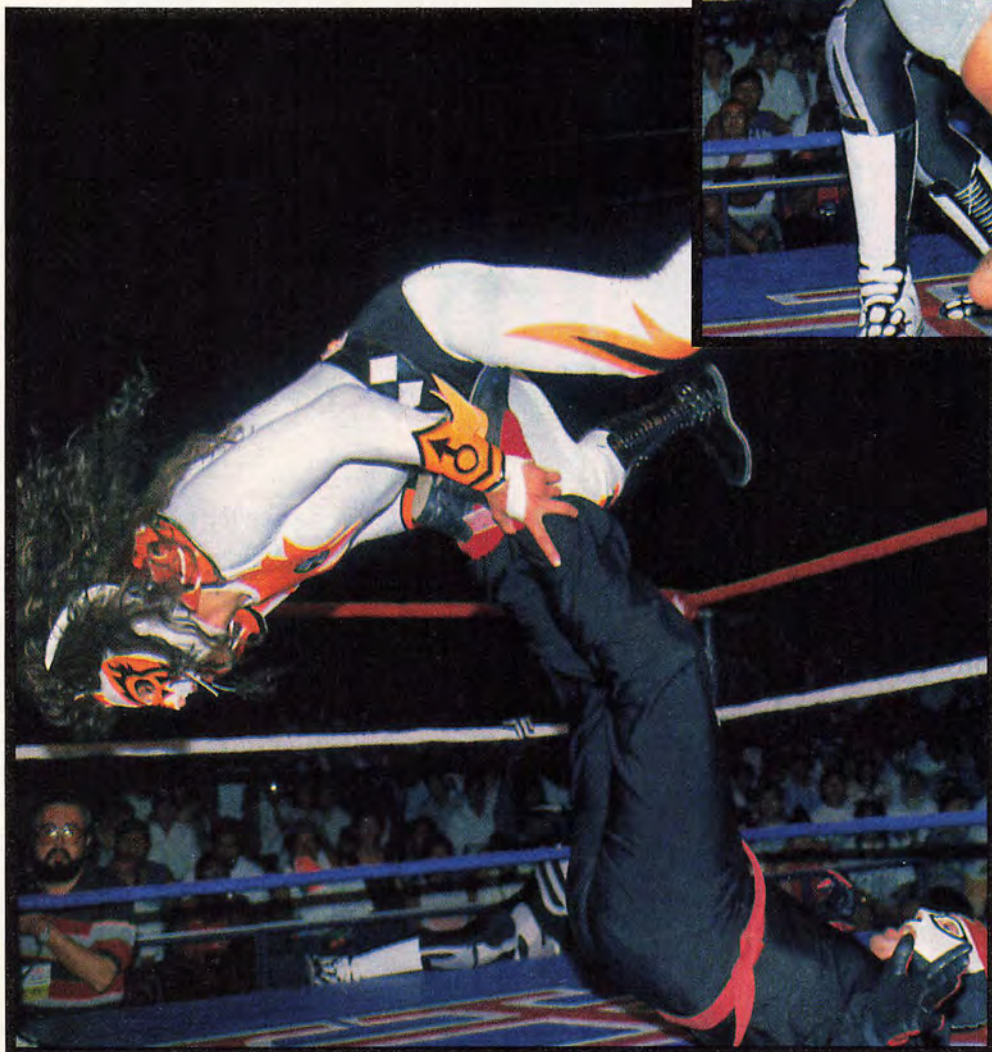
Truth be told, anyone who attended and didn't speak Spanish probably felt like a foreigner in their own land. The crowds were almost entirely Mexican, waving flags of their homeland. The announcing was in Spanish. Only the lineup sheet given to fans was in English.

"It was good to see how the other half lives, so to speak," said Frank Valeriani of Hewlett, Long Island. "Now I know what Hispanics go through when they attend English-speaking events like ballgames."

Scorpio is unique in that he has taken part in both wrestling cards held at The Paramount. He was with WCW when it was there in April of 1993.

"Wrestling transcends language," the Denver native said. "When you're in the ring and concentrating properly, you don't hear what the announcer is saying. And

El Hijo del Santo, a second-generation Mexican mat legend, takes La Parka down with a flying headscissors. Psicosis, Parka's tag teammate, looks on.



Octagon ranks among the world's most popular wrestlers, and shows the New York crowd one reason why. He flips Psicosis, whose style is similar to Jushin Liger, with his feet!



One would think that holding a singles title—his first in six years—would make Sid Vicious happy. But the USWA heavyweight champion, battling Tatanka, still feels he has something to prove.

SID VICIOUS

SID VICIOUS HAS experienced the depths of the valley without ever reaching the peak of the mountain. He remains perhaps the biggest enigma in wrestling.

From the mid-1980s, this 6'8", 318-pound superman has been labeled a can't-miss superstar. But he has missed, repeatedly.

In December 1988, Sid captured the CWA belt. It would be 5½ years before his next title. His WCW championship dreams evaporated in the infamous pseudo-Sting fiasco. As Sid Justice in the WWF, he was bypassed for a title shot at WrestleMania VII and disappeared from the federation shortly afterward.

His most recent act of self-destruction occurred on October 28, 1993, in England. Just two months away from a Starrcade date with WCW World champion Big Van Vader, Sid got into a hotel room brawl with Arn Anderson. He was indefinitely suspended by WCW officials.

Vicious emerged in the USWA this past July, close to his home base of West Memphis, Arkansas. He was scheduled to wrestle its champion, Jerry Lawler. Earlier in the card, Vicious choke-slammed Lawler, forcing him out of the match. Vicious finally had another title belt to his credit—even if it was awarded by forfeit.

He then power-bombed and easily pinned Jeff Gaylord. In August, he retained his belt by pummeling WWF invader Tatanka.

Managing Editor V.J. Paterno, Senior Editor Bill Apter, and Senior Writer Eddie Ellner interviewed Vicious recently prior to a USWA card in Memphis.

"He was very edgy and short-tempered," Apter reported. "But that wasn't surprising. Ellner was in the room."

Photos by Jerry Wilson & Scott George

EDDIE ELLNER: Sid, congratulations on your comeback and winning the USWA title, not to mention beating Jerry Lawler, Jeff Gaylord, and Tatanka.

VICIOUS: Thank you. It was easy.

ELLNER: Yes, I know. So how do you plan on messing things up this time?

BILL APTER: Hey, wait a minute, Ellner ...

VICIOUS: (*Angrily*) What did you say, punk?

V.J. PATERNO: Don't mind him, Sid. Eddie thinks he's Jim Rome.

ELLNER: No, I correct you: Jim Rome thinks he's me. Now, Sid, what's the story? I think it was a legitimate question ...

PATERNO: Yeah, and one that's going to lose us this interview before it even starts. Couldn't you have waited, Eddie?

ELLNER: Legitimate question. Now how about an answer, Sid?

VICIOUS: I don't know. Maybe by wrapping my hands around some punk reporter's skinny neck.

APTER: That wouldn't mess things up. That would make you a hero.

ELLNER: He's talking about you, Bill.

VICIOUS: (*Standing and screaming*) I'm talking about you, Ellner, and anyone else who gets in my way. I don't need pencil-pushers like you, Ellner, telling me that something's going to go wrong.

ELLNER: Down, boy. It's simply that a lot of people in this sport wonder how a wrestler with as much talent as you have hadn't won a title since 1988. And, let's face it, the USWA would be nowhere without Jerry Lawler.

VICIOUS: Don't mention Lawler to me, Ellner. I took care of him the easy way.

ELLNER: Yeah, right.

VICIOUS: Lawler's lucky he's still walking. He's the first one who found out what happens if you get in my way. I think Tatanka learned, too.

PATERNO: I detect a meaner, angrier Sid Vicious.

VICIOUS: You call it what you want. This is me. Everybody's always talking about my killer instinct, but don't have the guts to say it to my face ...

ELLNER: I do ...

VICIOUS: Well, nobody's ever going to doubt me again ...

ELLNER: I don't know. You still haven't pinned Lawler in a singles match.

VICIOUS: What does that matter? All these years, I've won matches but no titles. Now I win one and people question the way I did it. You know, there's no middle ground with you people. I oughta stop talking to the press.

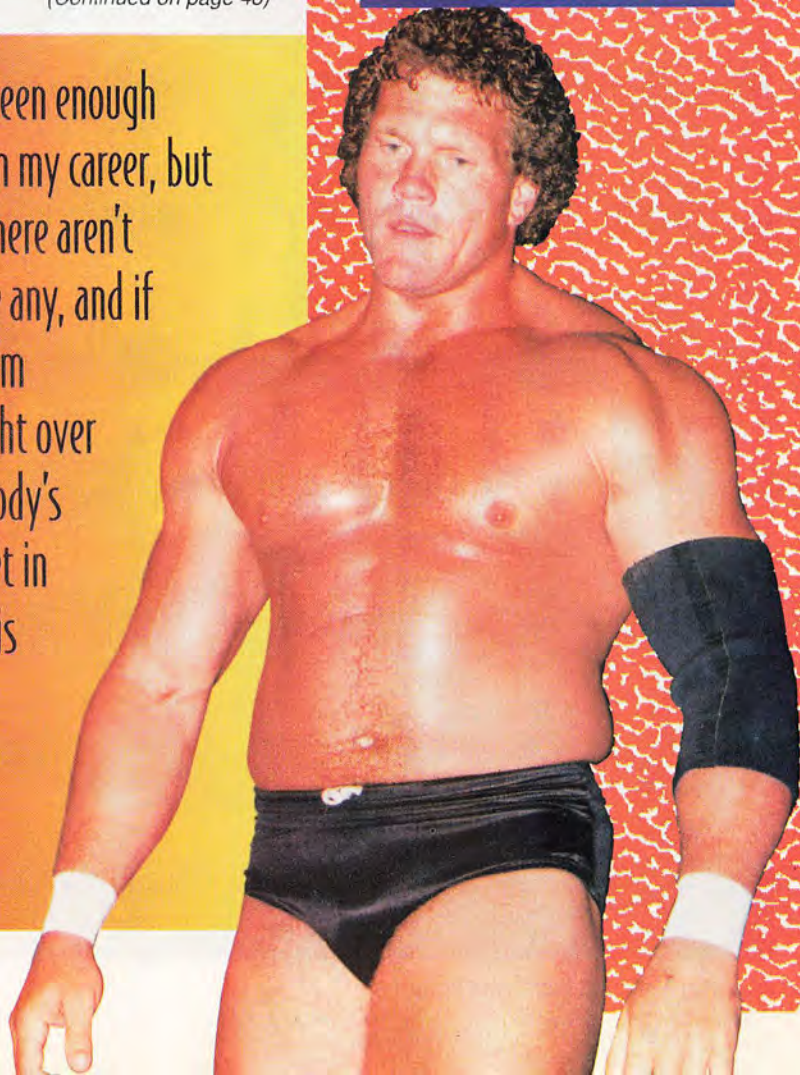
PATERNO: Seriously, Sid, what's next?

VICIOUS: You mean who's next? Tatanka retreated to the refuge of the WWF, Gaylord's still scratching his neck where the nerves used to be, and Lawler wakes up shaking every morning. Now, has anyone heard from

(Continued on page 48)

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

"There've been enough obstacles in my career, but this time there aren't going to be any, and if there are, I'm running right over them. Nobody's going to get in my way this time. Nobody."



HULK HOGAN
TRIUMPHS
OVER
RIC FLAIR!
"HULKAMANIA"
RUNS WILD
AGAIN!

HULK HOGAN SAID it. You'd better believe it! "Everything that was old is new again, brother!" the "Hulkster" exulted after winning the WCW World title from Ric Flair at Bash at the Beach. "'Hulkamania's' running more powerful than ever. I pity the fool. I feel sorry for Ric Flair. And what's WCW gonna do now that 'Hulkamania's' running wild?"

"Hulkamania" ran wild in the WWF from January 23, 1984, through December 1991. It resurfaced for a few months in 1993, when Hogan defeated Yokozuna for his fifth world title.

But it laid dormant for over a year until July 17, 1994. And now "Hulkamania's" running wild again, this time at a new address.

Hogan's victory over Flair was for his sixth world title and his first in WCW and further cemented Hogan's already secure place in wrestling history.

The critics have been silenced, the "Hulkamaniacs" validated. The historians are rewriting wrestling lore, with Hogan at the forefront. It doesn't matter what happens now. Hogan can truly stake his claim as the greatest of all-time.

Our complete coverage of Hogan's rebirth begins with a description of his spectacular Bash at the Beach victory. It continues with a study of the mental roller-coaster he went through in the days leading to the match, and looks at those who wish to unseat him.

In addition, we reveal Flair's apparent plan for revenge, and examine whether Jimmy Hart is the ideal manager for the "Hulkster."

Hogan has many more obstacles to overcome, but there are no questions left for him to answer. Whether he is a one-time WCW champ or wins the belt again—whether he loses to Flair and retires or goes on—the entire wrestling world has had the chance to experience Hulkamania.

Now experience it through *PWI*!

Hulk Hogan has a new home, but an old familiar title: World champion, this time in WCW. This special section reviews the "Hulkster's" stirring conquest of Ric Flair ... and examines what might be on the horizon



Photo by Steve Beyer

Seems like old times! When Hulk Hogan was in the WWF, he was famous for his post-victory celebrations. That hasn't changed a bit now that he's in WCW. Mr. T congratulates the "Hulkster" for beating Ric Flair at Bash at the Beach, as manager Jimmy Hart (partially hidden) and old friend Brutus Beefcake look on.

HOGAN VS. FLAIR

A BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT

P REMATCH: Flair entered first, accompanied by Sherri Martel. Hogan followed, with Mr. T and manager Jimmy Hart. The referee was WCW veteran Randy Anderson.

0:00-4:59: Both men engaged in a staredown until Flair finally shoved Hogan at 40 seconds. The "Hulkster" responded by ramming him to the mat. Neither man offered much offense. At 4:25, Hogan offered a boot to the face, sending Flair out of the ring. Flair then hid behind Sherri.

HOGAN: "Flair showed his true colors when he hid behind Sherri."

FLAIR: "Hogan wanted to figure out what I'm made of. He still has no idea."

5:00-9:59: At 5:30, Hogan landed a series of right hands. He followed with another big boot to Flair's face, sending the champion out of the ring again. He eventually returned to the ring, grabbed a brief advantage, but then missed with a kneedrop. Hogan backed up Flair into a corner at 7:18, mounted the second rope, and landed nine punches to his forehead.

But Sherri came to Flair's rescue. She grabbed Hogan's leg at 7:57, and Flair punched his challenger out of the ring. Sherri prepared to hit him with a metal chair, which was grabbed by Hart. Flair then rammed Hogan's

head into the outer railing. Both men re-entered the ring at 8:58. Flair retained the advantage and landed a kneedrop onto Hogan's neck at 9:36. Flair continued a mild assault.

HOGAN: "Just like Sherri to interfere. She hasn't changed a bit."

FLAIR: "I could feel the momentum building. Hogan knew he was in trouble."

10:00-14:59: Hogan regained the advantage in an exchange of chops and punches. He chopped down Flair to the mat, but Flair's reverse set up the match's first pin attempt, a one-count at 10:26. (Flair had his feet on the ropes for leverage.) Hogan rallied with a clothesline for a two-count at 10:40.

But several Hogan mistakes and smart wrestling by Flair almost undid the "Hulkster." At 12:05 gone, Flair put on a sleeperhold. Hogan fought it for nearly a minute. Anderson checked his arms. Hogan rallied and worked his way to his feet at 13:04. He rammed an elbow into Flair's midsection, scored with a shoulder block, and whipped Flair into the turnbuckle and out of the ring.

Hogan then delivered an impressive belly-to-back suplex at 14:08. Sherri helped Flair back into the ring. Hogan scored with another suplex. Then the match turned again: Flair rolled out of the way of a kneedrop at 14:50

The long-awaited
showdown between WCW
World champion Ric Flair and
former WWF World champion
Hulk Hogan lived up to the
hype. Here's a blow-by-blow
look at their Bash at the
Beach showdown, with
comments from both men

and Hogan clutched his hamstring in pain.

HOGAN: "I and the 'Hulkamaniacs' wouldn't let the match end on a fluke."

FLAIR: "I had Hogan where I wanted him. He was starting to doubt himself."

15:00-19:59: Flair attempted his first figure-four leglock, but Hulk reversed it for a two-count. Flair tried another figure-four, and a suplex sent Hogan to the mat. Flair was shocked when he turned around and saw Hogan standing.

Momentum turned again when Hogan landed a big boot at 16:12 and covered Flair for the two-count.

wouldn't win the World title."

FLAIR: "Patrick lost control of the match. Under normal conditions, I win."

20:00-21:53: Hogan tossed Flair to the mat and clotheslined him and Sherri at 20:13. Hogan applied his version of the figure-four leglock at 20:25; Flair escaped. Sherri tried to slug Hogan with a pair of brass knuckles, but Mr. T grabbed her and carried her

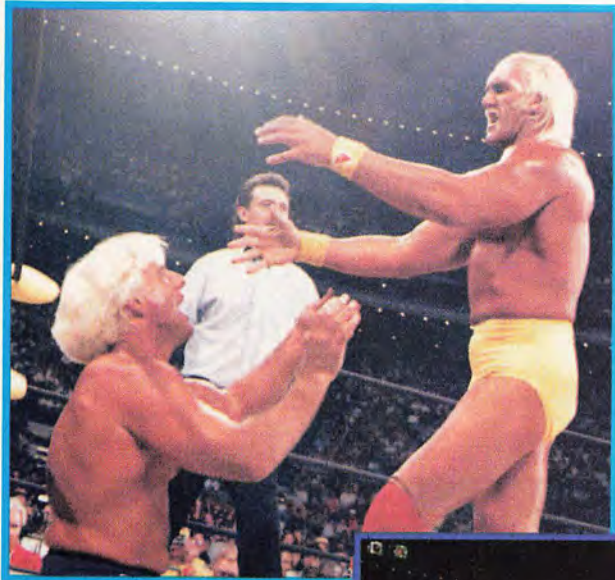


Photo by Steve Beyer



Photo by J. Stoll/WCW

Sherri, sensing a desperate situation, pulled Anderson from the ring; he hit the ringpost and was knocked unconscious. Hogan was shocked. Sherri reached the top rope and came down on Hogan. Anderson was still unconscious at 17:07, when substitute referee Nick Patrick took over.

Flair clamped on a figure-four. Hogan made it to the ropes and Patrick called for a break. Sherri took a stocking from her leg and choked Hogan, then draped it across his eyes. Hogan stood up, limped around the ring—and became energized.

Hogan backed up Flair into the corner and landed with five punches. Hogan ran straight into a Flair elbow. Sherri climbed to the top rope and dove toward Hogan; he rolled out of the way and she landed knee-first onto the mat.

HOGAN: "I feared Patrick would DQ Flair and I



Hogan missed his first attempted legdrop, pulling a hamstring muscle, but his second attempt set up the pin that would earn him the WCW World title.

Just after becoming only the third wrestler to win world titles in both NWA/WCW and the WWF, Hogan celebrates with old pal Mr. T, manager Jimmy Hart, and Orlando Magic star Shaquille O'Neal.

away from the ring. Flair picked up the brass knuckles and struck Hogan, then covered him for a two-count at 21:07.

Hogan gained a rush of adrenaline, repelling Flair's punches to whip the champ into the ropes. Flair rebounded into Hogan's right boot and fell to the mat. Hulk came down with his traditional legdrop and scored the pin at 21:53.

HOGAN: "My 'Hulkamaniacs' magic worked again. It's my greatest victory ever!"

FLAIR: "Hogan showed a lot of guts. Let's see how he does as a champion."

—Ed Emelett

A MENTAL ROLLERCOASTER TO GLORY

Rest, plenty of liquids, and good exercise is the perfect prescription for prematch preparation. Hulk Hogan took a different route prior to Bash at the Beach, and it almost ruined his chances



Hulk Hogan's in a jovial mood as he exchanges prematch banter with Regis Philbin and Kathie Lee Gifford on their nationally syndicated talk show.

Photo by Steve Friedman/Buena Vista Television

ONE WEEK BEFORE the big dance, Ric Flair entered seclusion. The WCW schedule-makers had accorded him an unusually slow week prior to Bash at the Beach, and Flair planned on using his time properly.

"Plenty of rest, exercise, and some mental preparation," Flair told a group of reporters five days before the Bash. "That's about it from me. There'll be no excuses come Sunday." That comment would come back to haunt him.

Meanwhile, Hulk Hogan had an entirely different week on tap. It would be hectic and, oh yes, included a wrestling match on Sunday, July 17.

That match—Hogan's victory over Flair for the WCW World title at Bash at the Beach—was not only testament to his greatness, but to his stamina and mental toughness. For the "Hulkster" had no proper prematch preparation.

His week included a flight to Los Angeles for an appearance on *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*. Then it was back to New York for an early morning outing on *Regis & Kathie Lee*.

The most grueling day of all came later that week in Uniondale, New York, as Hogan testified for 2½ hours as a witness for the prosecution in the Vince McMahon trial. That wasn't an easy time for Hogan, who has said he still considers McMahon a friend despite his switch to Ted Turner's promotion.

"It wasn't until I got off the stand that I really started getting mentally prepared for the match," Hogan said. "I'd been talking about it all week, but I couldn't get myself in the proper mental state until the trial was done with. There was too much to think about."

Hogan didn't hesitate when asked if this was his normal way of preparing for a big match. "No," he said, adding a smile for emphasis.

Considering the conditions, was it was a miracle that he won the title?

"Miracle? Miracles are for little boys and girls who face a terminal illness and the man upstairs brings them back to health," Hogan said. "This was more of an example of an athlete overcoming obstacles. But I'm proud of that, too."

As well he should be. It was a week that could have destroyed Hogan. But after signing a huge contract with WCW, he had no choice but to go on the road and promote Bash at the Beach ... especially since WCW promotional material for the card was released before Hogan signed.

The trial was an ordeal for Hogan. He admitted to lying about his past steroid use and said he shared steroids with McMahon. He talked about steroids "giving him an edge" and the prevalent use of steroids in the WWF at the time he was using them. He never looked McMahon in the eye.

Then he got off the stand, headed to the airport, and flew to Florida. Days later, he won the World title.

—Dave Rosenbaum



Photo by Thomas A. Ferrara

But there was no time for frivolity later that week in Uniondale, New York, as Hogan testified against Vince McMahon in the WWF steroid trial.



Photo by Neal Nachman

HULK HOGAN:

TARGET OF FRIENDS AND ENEMIES ALIKE

For **Hulk Hogan**—like Julius Caesar—the enemy is within. His natural rivals are ready to stab the “**Hulkster**” in the back. His friends? They’re choosing a more direct route

WHAT DOES IT mean to beat the legendary Hulk Hogan for a world title?

For Andre the Giant, who ended Hogan's four-year WWF World title reign in 1988, it meant money. He immediately sold the belt to Ted DiBiase.

For The Ultimate Warrior, it meant glory. He had long been projected as a superstar. Winning the title and beating Hogan verified those predictions.

For Undertaker, it meant life after death. Though he was champion for only five days, he is still respected worldwide for beating Hogan.

For Yokozuna, it meant redemption, a long reign as WWF World champion, and an aura of dominance.

The latest prize for beating the "Hulkster"? The WCW World title.

Hogan, now a six-time world champion, knows what it means to be on top of the world and have everyone gun-

Hart—who wouldn't want to beat Hogan for the WCW World title. Hogan is surrounded by enemies and friends who would gladly torment him for a night.

Naturally, Flair heads the list. The 10-time NWA/WCW and WWF world champion has a glorious career

to find out what it's all about."

Vader would pose an enormous challenge for Hogan. He is big, talented, and has a dangerous killer instinct. Nobody who witnessed it will ever forget his power bomb on Cactus Jack, which left Jack nearly paralyzed.

For every friend, there is an enemy.

WCW is a danger zone for Hogan with mines everywhere. Even occasional tag team partner Sting, who has appeared on several episodes of Hogan's TV series *Thunder In Paradise*, is a potential foe.

"I'd wrestle Hogan in a New York minute," Sting said. "I have tremendous respect for him, but there's something he has that I want."

Hogan doesn't have to look far to find others awaiting their shot.

"Stunning" Steve Austin, an outstanding all-around wrestler, is the automatic top contender to the WCW World title as U.S. champion. And he wants what's his. "I've earned a shot and I'm going to get one," he stated.

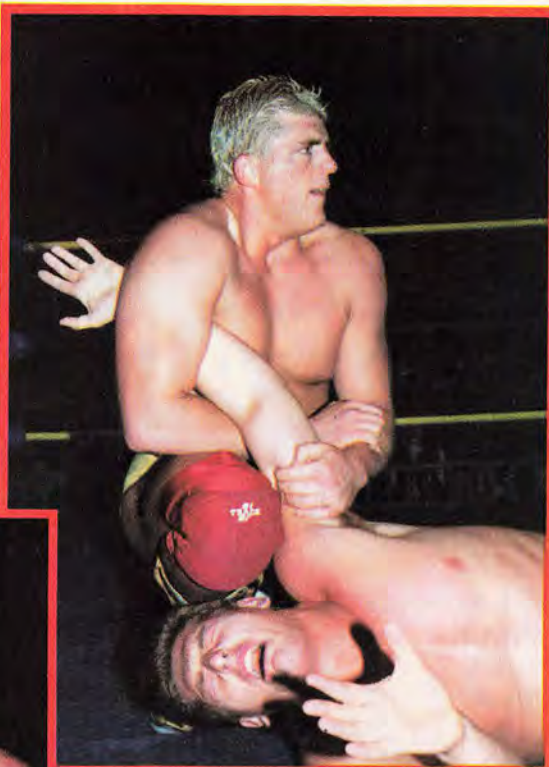
TV champion Lord Steven Regal wants Hogan, after meeting Antonio Inoki. "Once I'm done with one legend, I'll go onto the next," he warned.

Dustin Rhodes might seem preoccupied with Arn Anderson, Bunkhouse Buck, and Terry Funk, but he's eyeing Hogan. "My father said only two things matter in wrestling: pride and the title," he explained. "Now I want both."

In case anybody forgot, Rick Steamboat would like to remind everyone that he has won a world title. "I think Hogan would have a tough time handling me," he said. "I'd love to give it a shot! It would be a great challenge."

Over the next few months, we'll see if he—and the others—get the chance.

—Dave Rosenbaum



Dustin Rhodes and Lord Steven Regal are in opposite locker rooms, but both have something in common. Each want a chance to take the World title from Hogan.



Big Van Vader has used his size and talent to torture WCW opponents such as Davey Boy Smith. The three-time World champion would love to do likewise against Hogan.

ning for you. And in WCW, where Hogan is always the outsider, the challenge is even greater.

There isn't a wrestler in the world—except for WWF World champion Bret

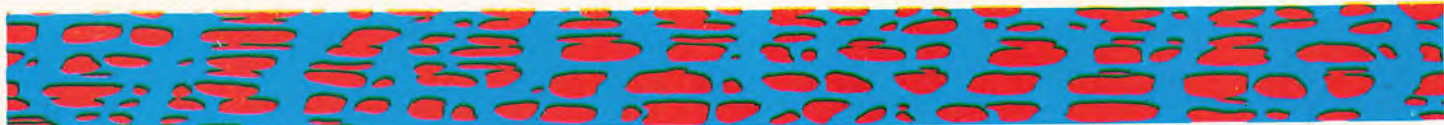
Flair—by beating Hogan.

"Flair's small potatoes compared to Hogan," said Harley Race, Vader's manager. "There's this aura about Hogan that isn't justified. Vader wants

resume, but two items are missing: a world title victory over Hogan and a successful defense against Hogan.

"I won't rest easily until I get both of them," Flair said. "And I will."

Hogan is well aware of Flair's challenge. But even if he overcomes it, there are more on the horizon. Like three-time WCW World champion Big Van Vader. He'd dearly love to avenge his earlier title losses to



WHILE HIS OPPONENT worked the late-night talk show, early-morning talk show, afternoon court appearance, international airport circuit, Ric Flair sat in his Charlotte, North Carolina, home and planned.

The phone rang every half-hour. Sherri Martel was always on the other end. Flair's wife and children were under orders not to disturb him.

A mastermind was at work.

It turned out that Flair's master plan involved nothing but constant interference from Martel, who was eventually fined \$25,000 for her behavior at Bash at the Beach. It backfired; Hogan won the WCW World title, leaving Flair red-faced and heading back to the drawing board.

Which is where Flair sat during the weeks leading up to the rematch at Clash of the Champions XXVIII. But he wasn't working on strategy. Nor was he analyzing tapes of Hogan's matches and looking for weaknesses. Flair wasn't even devising bizarre new ways for Sherri to interfere.

Flair was making phone calls.

According to sources in Los Angeles and New York, Flair spent the first 10 days of August calling talk show hosts and TV producers. Realizing Hogan was nearly exhausted from his pre-Bash at the Beach schedule—featuring appearances on *The Tonight Show* and *Regis & Kathie Lee*—Flair planned on filling Hogan's six days prior to Clash XXVIII with more TV appearances.

"He called and introduced himself as a WCW publicist," said one producer in Los Angeles. "He used a different name—I don't remember what it was—and he said that Hogan would be available for an appearance any day prior to August 24, including the morning of the 24th live from Cedar Rapids [Iowa, where the card was held]. But when I asked him for a phone number so that I could return his call, he hesitated. The next thing I heard was a click."

TV talk shows are everywhere: *Rolonda*, *Ricki Lake*, *Geraldo*, *Donahue*, *Montel Williams*, *The Richard Bey Show*, *Jenny Jones*, and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. And that doesn't even include their evening network counterparts, hosted by Jay Leno, David Letterman, and Conan O'Brien.

out. Sure enough, it was Flair."

This certainly ranks among the strangest plans ever conceived by any wrestler. It pales in comparison to the impostor Sting fiasco, when Flair and The Four Horsemen kidnapped Sting during his title defense against Sid Justice and replaced him with a dis-

RIC FLAIR'S BIZARRE PLAN TO ELIMINATE THE "HULKSTER"

Strategy? Nope. Training? Just a little. Mental preparation? Just a little. Ric Flair had other things in mind as he attempted to derail World champion Hulk Hogan. You won't believe it!

But Flair ran into an unforeseen problem. Many shows were on summer break and into reruns. It was too soon for Hogan to return to *Regis & Kathie Lee* and *The Tonight Show*. And anybody who was interested wanted a phone number, not a click.

"I knew it was Flair because we have call return on all of our phones," said one producer. "I automatically returned the call, got the number, and checked it

guised Barry Windham.

This plan involved treachery and deceit ... and an incredible lack of foresight. What if one of the producers said yes? How would Flair have set up the appearance? Did he have a secret henchman in the WCW publicity office?

We'll never know. Flair, of course, denies all of this. He called it "ridiculous." And we agree.

—Dave Rosenbaum

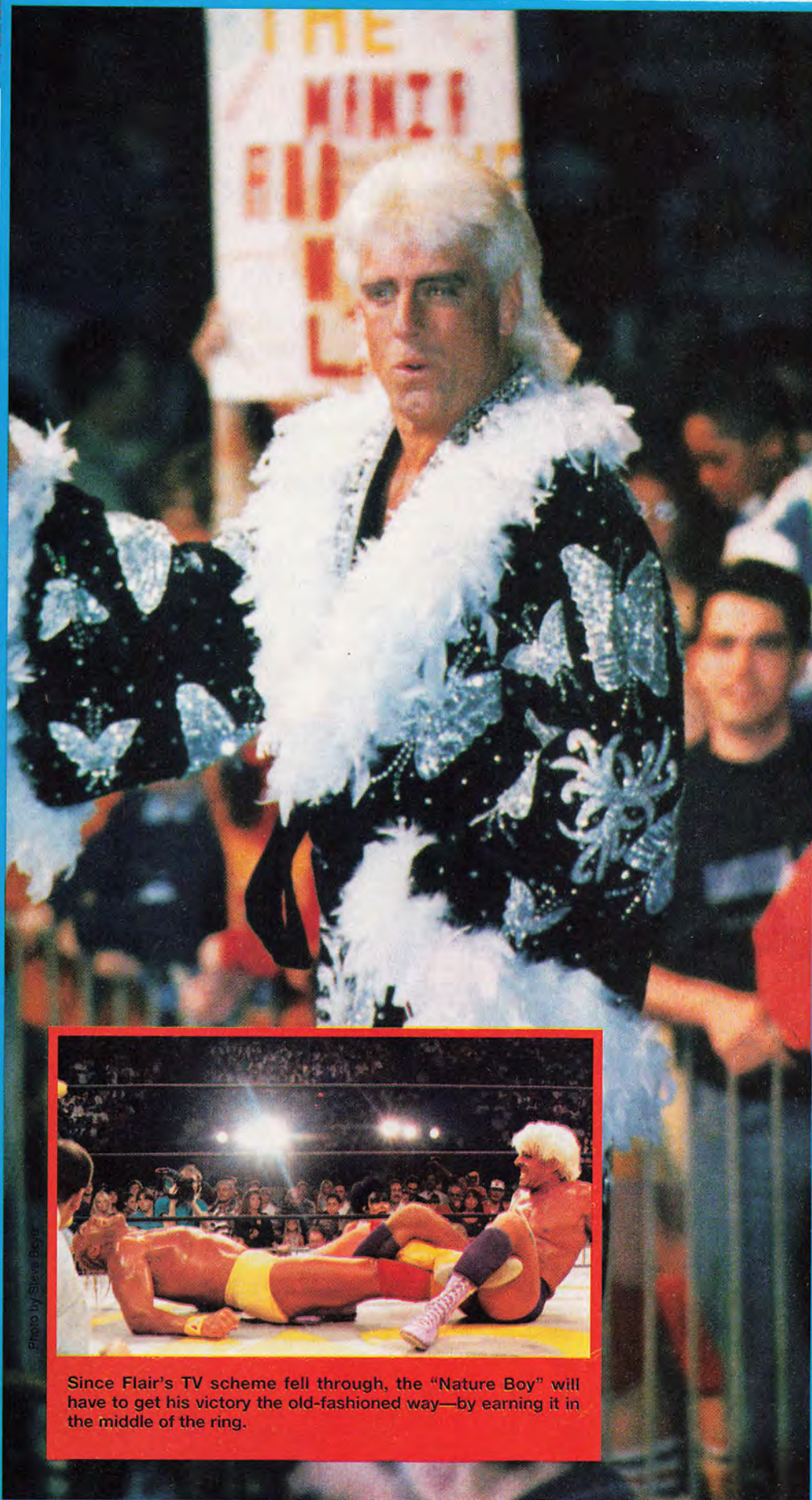


Photo by Brad McFarlin

Since Flair's TV scheme fell through, the "Nature Boy" will have to get his victory the old-fashioned way—by earning it in the middle of the ring.

IS **HULK HOGAN** BEING MISGUIDED BY JIMMY HART?

Jimmy Hart is among the most famous managers in wrestling history, but he's hardly one of the best. There's a failure for every one of "The Mouth Of The South's" successes. Hulk Hogan could be next

ON THIS GUIDED tour of his career, Jimmy Hart is like the bus driver who can take you to the million-dollar mansions without going through the decrepit sections of the inner city.

"Look right here, I led The Honky Tonk Man to the Intercontinental title!" Hart exclaimed. "Nobody thought he could wrestle, but he's the longest-reigning Intercontinental champion of all-time. I must have done something right. I kept him on top!

"And look here. Look at what I did for The Hart Foundation," Hart continued. "Those guys were nothing before I got to them. I had the vision to put them together and then I had the drive to get them the title shots they needed. Without me, they would've been nothing."

Hart's tour has one more stop. He walks over to his trophy case and pulls out a freshly polished plaque. It looks brand new, even though it's six years old.

"Manager Of The Year, 1987," Hart says, reading the inscription.

He lets his visitor admire the plaque before returning it to the case. Then he closes the case. Case closed.

Unfortunately for Hart, it's just not that easy. Although "The Mouth Of The South" and Hulk Hogan are seemingly the perfect combination—as proven by Hogan's victory over Ric Flair for the WCW World title—there are considerable doubts surrounding Hart's self-proclaimed impeccable managerial credentials.

Sure, The Hart Foundation held the WWF World tag team belts for 10 months with Hart. But they eventually fired him and regained the belts without him.

Less than two years ago, Hart switched from rule-breaker to fan favorite and managed the supposedly invincible team of Brutus Beefcake and Hogan. They lost to Money Inc. at WrestleMania IX. When Hogan won the World title later that day, it was without Hart's assistance.

And despite Hart's fame, he has won Manager of the Year only once in 15 years, and hasn't finished in the top four since 1987.

Hart's credentials are hardly impeccable. The man isn't even trustworthy, but goes with the best offer. Remember, Hart was Hogan's enemy for a long time.

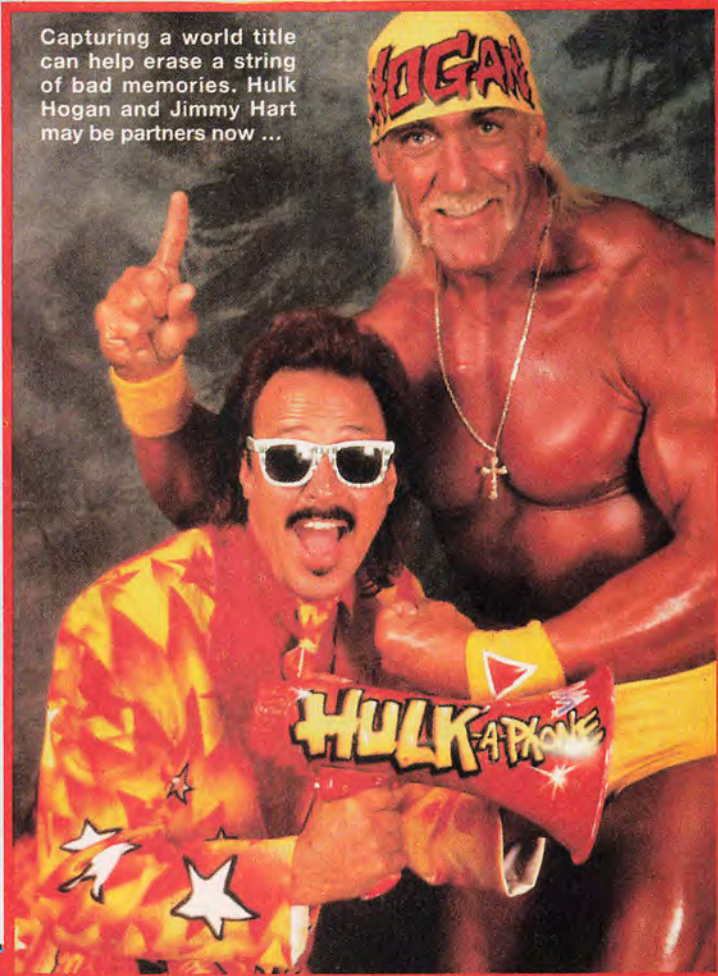
It should have stayed that way.

— Dave Rosenbaum



... but were bitter rivals as recently as 1991. Who's to say Hart won't turn against Hogan, given his track record?

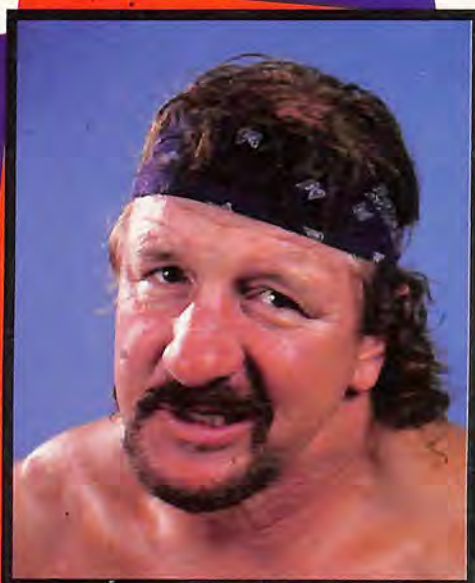
Capturing a world title can help erase a string of bad memories. Hulk Hogan and Jimmy Hart may be partners now ...



close-up:

TERRY FUNK

FORMER NWA WORLD champion Terry Funk recently turned 50, but you'd never know it from watching him in the ring ... Second-generation superstar is the son of Dory Funk and the brother of former NWA World champion Dory Jr. ... They remain the only brothers to have won world titles ... Known for a fearsome killer instinct ... Renowned for his acting career as well ... Starred in 1977's *Paradise Alley* with Sylvester Stallone ... Also appeared in *Over The Top*, *Rambo III*, and *Roadhouse*, opposite Patrick Swayze ... TV credits include *Quantum Leap*, *Swamp Thing*, *Good And Evil*, *Wildside*, and, most recently, *Thunder In Paradise* ... Stands 6'3", weighs 247 pounds ... Estimates he has wrestled in about 4,000 matches ... Born June 30, 1944, in Hammond, Indiana ... Attended Canyon High School in Texas, lettering in football, track, and swimming ... Went to West Texas State University on a football scholarship, as did several other pro mat stars ... Learned wrestling from his father and other famed mat greats, including Lou Thesz, Pat O'Connor, Ricky Romero, Jose Lothario, Wahoo McDaniel, Gene Kiniski, and Eddie Graham ... Made pro debut on December 9, 1965, battling Sputnik Monroe to a draw at the Amarillo Sports Arena ... Spent his early years in Florida, Texas, Missouri, and Los Angeles ... Teamed with McDaniel against Dory Jr. and Romero for the Southwestern State tag team championship ... He and Dory Jr. started their feud with the Briscos in 1969 ... Won the NWA World title from Jack Brisco on December 10, 1975, scoring the pin with an inside cradle ... Held the belt for 14 months and defended it an estimated 310 times before losing to Harley Race on February 6, 1977 ... He and Dory Jr. were in a noted feud in Japan against The Sheik and Abdullah the Butcher ... Took a hiatus from wrestling and returned in 1979 to win the Florida heavyweight title ... Also won the U.S. title ... Has always been hugely popular in Japan ... Temporarily retired on August 31, 1983, after teaming with his brother to beat Stan Hansen and Terry Gordy ... Terry and Dory Jr. have won the Japanese tag team tournament three times ... Signed with the WWF in 1985 and spent 10 months there ... Has worked for virtually every wrestling promotion in the world ... Knee problems have slowed him over the past decade ... Was a ringside judge for Ric Flair's match against WCW World champion Rick Steamboat on May 7, 1989 ... After Flair won the title, Funk brutally attacked him ... Flair beat Funk at the Great American Bash on July 23, 1989, in Baltimore ... Lost a wild match to Flair on August 27 in New Haven, Connecticut ... Was sidelined with an injured right elbow ... Dick Slater replaced him at Fall Brawl '89, teaming with The Great Muta against Sting and Flair ... Tried to suffocate Flair with a plastic bag ... Was suspended indefinitely by NWA officials ... Flair paid a \$100,000 fine to



have Funk reinstated ... Refereed a match between Flair and Luger on March 5, 1990, in Amarillo ... Flair picked a fight with Funk during the match and was disqualified ... Battled Jerry Lawler for the first time in 14 years on September 15, 1990, at "Autumn Armageddon" ... Funk, Eddie Gilbert, and Bulldog Brower triple-teamed Lawler, and Funk later announced his plans to help Gilbert destroy the Memphis monarch ... Lost to Lawler in the semifinals of a tournament to determine the new USWA champion ... Lawler recovered from a Funk piledriver ... Won the title from Lawler on November 5 in Memphis, thanks to Gilbert's interference ... "Who said I'm over the hill?" he quipped ... Put bounties on Lawler and Jeff Jarrett ... Defended the belt infrequently and lost it to Lawler on March 11, 1991, in

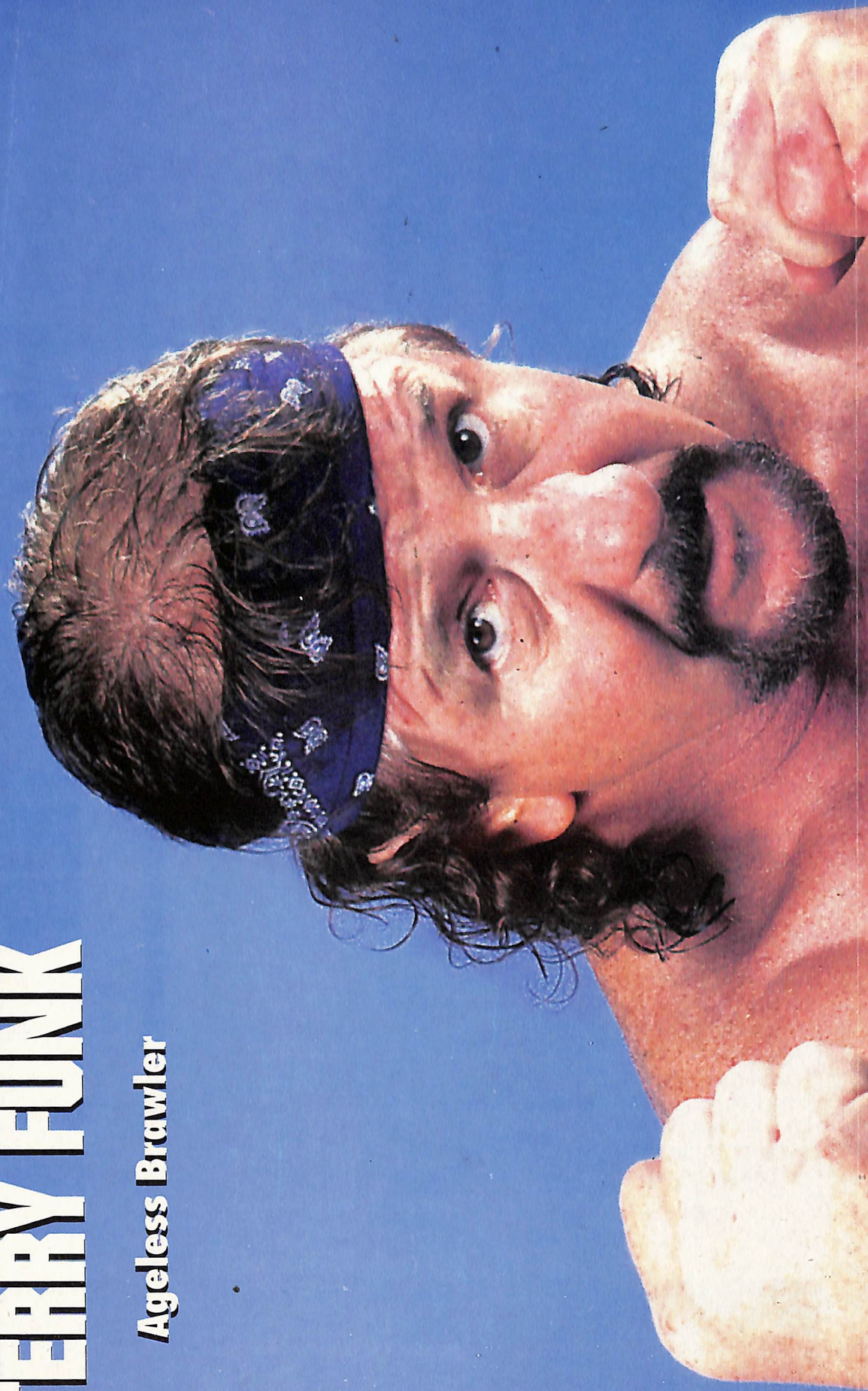
Memphis ... Had a featured role on the USA Network series *Swamp Thing*, where his character gained revenge on another for "killing my brother, Dory" ... Battled Kevin Sullivan to a double-disqualification at Autumn Armageddon II when both wrestlers blasted the referee ... In May 1993, fought Atsushi Onita, his one-time protege, in an electrified barbed-wire street-fight explosives match in Kawasaki, Japan ... Onita DDT'd and pinned Funk at the 12-minute mark and left him in the ring, which was timed to explode after 15 minutes. With seconds left, Onita rushed back to the ring and covered Funk as the ring exploded ... Main-evented on several ECW cards ... Lost to Gilbert in a "Texas Chain Massacre" match on June 19 in Philadelphia ... Helped Jim Cornette become SMW commissioner when he beat former commissioner Bob Armstrong on September 12 in Knoxville, Tennessee ... Won ECW TV title from Jimmy

Snuka on October 1, 1993, in a cage match ... Pinned Sabu for the ECW heavyweight title on December 26 ... Armstrong regained the SMW commissionership when The Bullet beat Funk on February 13, 1994 ... Turned back challenges in ECW from Sabu and Shane Douglas ... Eventually lost ECW title to Douglas on March 26 ... Fought to a double-disqualification with Tully Blanchard at WCW's Slamboree '94 ... Funk and Bunkhouse Buck joined Arn Anderson in a savage attack on Dustin Rhodes—Anderson's partner—at Bash at the Beach ... Pinned Scott Armstrong in a six-man match in Atlanta ... Afterward, Funk, Buck, and Anderson attacked the Armstrongs, but were run off by Dustin and Dusty Rhodes ... Funk is well aware the end of his wrestling career is near ... "Don't be surprised when I fold 'em," he said. "I'll know when it's time to go and that time is just around the corner for Terry Funk. But when I retire, I'm not going to make a big deal of it. I'm just going to be gone."

PRO Wrestling
ILLUSTRATED

TERRY FUNK

Ageless Brawler





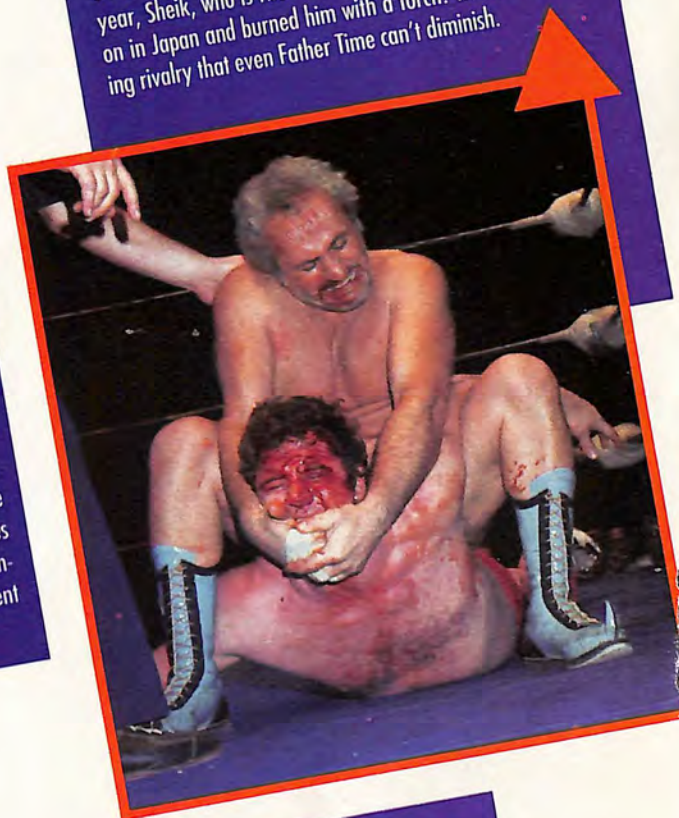


FAVORITE MANEUVER

Spinning toehold. While his piledrivers and sneak-attacks have had a more devastating effect on opponents' innards over the years, Funk is deservedly proud of his scientific ability. He loves applying the family's signature move to finish off a foe. The spinning toehold is extremely painful and effective when an opponent is worn down.

MOST HATED OPPONENT

The Sheik. During the 1970s, Terry and brother Dory Jr. had a violent feud in Japan with Sheik and Abdullah the Butcher. Their battles also often took place stateside. Last year, Sheik, who is two decades older than Terry, took him on in Japan and burned him with a torch! This is an amazing rivalry that even Father Time can't diminish.



TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Ric Flair. No foe has ever posed as difficult a test for Terry as the "Nature Boy," who rose from his hospital bed to successfully defend the NWA World title in 1989. Funk attacked Flair at every turn, but the champ was equal to the challenge. PWI readers named it 1989's Feud of the Year. Despite their differences, Funk has tremendous respect for Flair.

GREATEST MATCH

Vs. Jack Brisco, December 10, 1975. No doubt about it. Funk had to pinch-hit for Dory Jr., who was detained in Japan, and took advantage of the opportunity. Terry won his only NWA World title by pinning arch-rival Jack Brisco with an inside cradle. It marked the first time brothers held the NWA World title. Dory Jr. had won the belt six years earlier.



Unquestionably, Vince's Greatest Victory: McMahon, Titan Acquitted On All Steroid Charges

WWF HEAD VINCE McMAHON HAD LONG PROCLAIMED HIS INNOCENCE ON CHARGES HE CONSPIRED TO DISTRIBUTE STEROIDS TO WRESTLERS. AFTER HEARING THE TESTIMONY OF 11 WRESTLERS AND SOME OTHERS, A FEDERAL JURY DECIDED HE WAS RIGHT

By Dave Lenker

JULY 22, 1994, will undoubtedly rank among the most important dates in WWF history.

It was not the date of a major pay-per-view. No titles changed hands that day. No major superstar was signed to a major contract.

It was the day Vince McMahon won his legal battle with the U.S. government, a



Photos by Thomas A. Ferrara

Federal jury in Uniondale, New York, found the WWF head not guilty of conspiring to distribute steroids to wrestlers. Four days earlier, U.S. District Judge Jacob Mishler dismissed the other steroid charges against McMahon.

Had he been convicted on all counts, he would have faced up to eight years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

According to those who watched

the insults the government threw at me."

The prosecution saw a silver lining from the defeat. "The case highlighted a serious problem in this country among athletes and athletic organizations, so in that sense we're happy," Sean O'Shea, the prosecutor, said after the verdict was read. "Obviously, you always want the jury to go your way. We presented substantial evidence.

them or instructed them to take the substances.

Nailz, on the other hand, testified that McMahon told him in January 1992 that he should be on steroids. But Nailz may have lost credibility among jurors when he admitted under cross examination by Laura Brevetti, one of McMahon's attorneys, that he hated the defendant.

McMahon's attorneys tried to establish throughout the trial that



Despite the stress from of the trial and his recovery from neck surgery, Vince McMahon was courteous enough to sign an autograph to a fan outside the Federal courthouse on Long Island, as his wife Linda McMahon looks on.

the 2½-week trial, the proceedings resembled a wrestling match. Most on hand considered McMahon the fan favorite and the government the rulebreaker. Momentum in the trial shifted back and forth several times before McMahon and his legal team finally triumphed.

When the verdict was announced, the courtroom erupted in wild applause.

"I didn't have a great deal of faith in the judicial system, but I had an overwhelming faith in humanity," McMahon said in a press conference outside the courtroom. "I left my fate in the hands of the jury and they responded nicely through all

However, we accept the jury's verdict."

Among the wrestlers taking the stand were Moondog Rex, Nailz, Tully Blanchard, Tom Zenk, The Ultimate Warrior, Rick Rude, and Hulk Hogan, who won the WCW World title three days after appearing at the trial (see story on page 28)

Rex and Zenk both testified that Dr. George T. Zahorian, the former WWF ringside physician who was convicted in 1991 of illegally distributing steroids to wrestlers and sentenced to three years in prison, regularly sold steroids, but said McMahon never bought steroids for

those wrestlers who gave damaging testimony against him had axes to grind.

Ultimate Warrior candidly discussed his steroid use when he took the stand. He said he began using the substances in 1984 and had no problems getting them while in the WWF, though he never dealt with Zahorian. He said he knew McMahon well, but was also never told to take steroids by him.

Emily Feinberg, McMahon's



One-time WWF wrestler Nailz told the court that in 1992, McMahon told him he should be on steroids. However, defense attorneys were able to prove that Nailz hated McMahon, thus seemingly weakening his testimony.

former secretary, was anything but complimentary toward her former boss. Considered the prosecution's star witness, she testified that McMahon once explained to her that wrestlers needed drugs to sleep

and to control "roid rages," a term describing violent personality flare-ups to which people on steroids are susceptible.

She also claimed she was asked to purchase steroids for Hogan on several occasions and that McMahon divided up steroid shipments that came to his office and asked her to send some to Hogan.

But everyone was waiting for Hogan's appearance, which finally happened on July 14. Testifying under immunity from prosecution, Hogan admitted he used steroids from 1976 to 1989, but denied McMahon ever instructed him or other wrestlers to use them. Hogan said he paid for the steroids with his own money, picking them up at

TitanSports headquarters along with his paycheck and mail.

What follows are some of the other important points from Hogan's testimony:

- He admitted he publicly lied about his steroid use in the past, including a 1991 appearance on *The Arsenio Hall Show*, where he told Hall he had only used the substances two or three times.

- He said he shared steroids with McMahon—whom he said he still considers a friend—in 1988 in Atlanta, while filming the movie *No Holds Barred*. (Hogan never made eye contact with McMahon during his entire time on the stand.)

- He claimed that approximately 80 percent of WWF wrestlers used



Two wrestlers testified that while former WWF ringside physician Dr. George Zahorian regularly sold steroids, McMahon never bought the drugs for his wrestlers or instructed them to take the substances.

steroids at the time he was using them.

•He said he used steroids because "it gave you an edge," especially when faced with a grueling road schedule, "for bodybuilding," and "to get big."

Asked after the trial about Hogan's testimony, McMahon replied rather cryptically, "I don't feel bad when anyone tells the truth. However, it feels bad when someone you worked with takes the

stand and does not tell the whole truth and all of the truth. That hurt me very badly."

When it came time for closing remarks, O'Shea went after McMahon with a vengeance, calling the alleged wrongdoing of the WWF head and TitanSports "corporate drug dealing" and McMahon himself a "pusher." At one point, McMahon's wife, Linda, was fighting back tears.

But after the jury deliberated for

16 hours, the only tears being shed for Vince McMahon were tears of joy. The verdict was not guilty and everyone at Titan Tower in Stamford, Connecticut, breathed a sigh of relief.

"It's been an unbelievable ordeal which I wouldn't wish on anyone," McMahon said. "It's been years that no American should endure ... I was singled out unfairly. I had everything riding on this case. I was definitely nervous." □



Former WWF World champion Ultimate Warrior admitted to using steroids before and during his time in the federation. But he said McMahon never told him to take them.



Hulk Hogan—once the embodiment of McMahon's WWF—testified under immunity. He said he had used steroids for 13 years and had lied about his use in the past, adding he bought the drugs at WWF headquarters with his own money.

this month in...

Inside *Wrestling*



A psychologist analyzes the **HART** feud: "It's all **BRET'S** fault!"



Bang, bang!
WCW finally got
CACTUS JACK!

PLUS ...

HULK HOGAN in paradise—and **RIC FLAIR** feels the thunder! ... Stop laughing! Why **SPARKY PLUGG** deserves a World title shot ... **IAN** and **AXL ROTTEN**: "If we weren't in wrestling, we'd be on death row!" ... **DONN E. ALLEN**: "I'm so proud to be last in the 'PWI 500'!" ... *Ay, caramba!* You never saw midget wrestling like *this!*

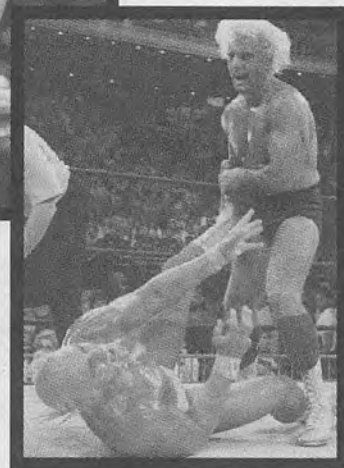
All this—and much more!—in the December 1994 issue of *Inside Wrestling*

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Why **LEX LUGER** turning bad would be good for the WWF



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All this—and much more!—in the December 1994 issue of *The Wrestler*

**NOW
ON SALE!**



arena reports



UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

STUDIO CITY—Slammers Wrestling Federation fifth anniversary card at Slammers Gym: Jeff Lindberg defeated Verne Langdon by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion Malicious Mike pinned Sonora ... Malicious Mike beat Verne Langdon by disqualification in a chain and dog-collar match when Jeff Lindberg kayoed Langdon with a chair and then cut off Langdon's hair. (08-07-94)

—Gregg John

LOS ANGELES—IWC/AAA at the Sports Arena: Louie Spicolli defeated Mando Guerrero ... Magnificent Mimi & La Monster beat Martha Villalobos & Lola Gonzales ... Volador, Heavy Metal, & Winners defeated Misterioso, Psicosis, & La Parka by disqualification ... El Hijo del Santo, Octagon, & Rey Misterio Jr. beat Los Payasos ... Jake Roberts & Konnan defeated Perro Aguayo & Canadian Vampire in an enemies-team match ... Mascarita Sagrada beat Espectrito by disqualification in a midget mask-vs.-mask match. (08-06-94)

—Nancy Hayes

OAKLAND—WWF at the Kaiser Convention Center: The Kid defeated Pierre ... World tag team champions The Headshrinkers beat The Heavenly Bodies ... Jerry Lawler defeated Duke "The Dumpster" Droese by disqualification ... Lex Luger beat Crush in a stretcher match ... Adam Bomb defeated Kwang the Ninja ... Razor Ramon beat Intercontinental champion Diesel by disqualification ... Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Mabel ... World champion Bret Hart beat Owen Hart. (07-30-94)

—Mark Williams

FLORIDA

PLANT CITY—Plant City Wrestling Federation at the Auction: Billy Mack beat Randy Fuller ... Jerry Flynn defeated Ned Brady ... Lou Perez beat Buck Quartermaine ... Dirty Dennis & Classy Chris defeated Rick Thames & Sonny T ... Odessa Slim beat Luscious Luke. (08-04-94)

—Shannon Rose

AUBURNDALE—Universal Championship Wrestling Association at the Civic Center: Mr. Twilight defeated Dirty Yellow Dog ... The Mechanic beat Canadian Mountie ... Brain Scan defeated Donny York ... Attitude Adjuster beat Grave Digger ... The Galaxian defeated Frame by disqualification ... Tommy Wright beat Billy Garrett ... Kevin Katlyn defeated Max the Destroyer ... Cody Wade & Randy Fuller beat Rick Thames & Sonny T by disqualification. (07-25-94)

—Steve Neal

TAMPA—Florida Wrestling Alliance at Caribbean Jasmine: The Surgeon General defeated Storm Trooper ... Garbage Man Jake battled Louis Morales to a double-countout ... Light heavyweight champion Mr. Electricity wrestled Manny Fernandez to a no-contest in a no-disqualification match ... Navy Seal beat Beautiful Billy Mac by disqualification ... Heartbreaker & Haystacks Calhoun Jr. defeated The Bounty Hunters. (07-25-94)

—Shannon Rose

ORLANDO—WCW Bash at the Beach pay-per-view at Orlando Arena: Brad & Brian Armstrong beat Bobby Eaton & Steve Keirn in a non-televvised match ... Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma defeated World tag team champions Kevin Sullivan & Cactus Jack to win the belts when Orndorff pinned Cactus as Roma held Cactus' leg during the count ... Big Van Vader beat The Guardian Angel by disqualification when the referee caught Angel with a nightstick he had taken away from Vader ... Terry Funk & Bunkhouse Buck defeated Dustin Rhodes & Arn Anderson when Funk pinned Rhodes after Anderson attacked Dustin and DDT'd him ... TV champion Lord Steven Regal beat Johnny B. Bad (substituting for Sting) ... U.S. champion Steve Austin defeated Rick Steamboat ... Hulk Hogan pinned World champion Ric Flair to win the title. (07-17-94)

—Matthew Stack

GEORGIA

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: Widowmaker pinned The Intruder ... Dakota Outlaw beat Billy Montana ... Rickie Dye & Big Bubba Humphries defeated Big Tiny & Kenny Arden ... Frank E. Lee & Johnny Blaze beat "Gigolo" Joel Travis & Sam Colt ... Heavyweight champion Jimmy Sharpe pinned Randy Steele. (07-29-94)

—Bill Needham

ILLINOIS

ROSEMONT—AAA/IWC at the Horizon: Tito Santana & 2 Cold Scorpio beat "Diamond" Dallas Page & Louie Spicolli ... Espectrito & Octagoncito defeated Mascarita Sagrada & Jerrito Estrada in an enemies-are-forced-to-team midget match ... Heavy Metal, Rey Misterio Jr., &

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly newsletters. Readers of PWI Weekly received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to PWI Weekly, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Misterioso beat Los Payasos ... Love Machine & Eddy Guerrero defeated tag team champions El Hijo del Santo & Octagon to recapture the belts ... Konnan, Perro Aguayo, & Cien Caras beat Jake Roberts, La Parka, & Psicosis. (07-23-94)

—Fernando Higuera

KANSAS

WICHITA—Sunflower State Wrestling at the Sports Complex: Shadow defeated Casey Cannon ... Big Jake beat The Skull ... Wild Maverick defeated Lightning Lenny ... Randy Rhodes beat Shawn Summers ... Dick Murdoch battled Kansas heavyweight champion The Panther to a double-countout ... "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr. wrestled Butch Reed to a double-disqualification. (07-16-94)

—Larry Smith

KENTUCKY

ALBANY—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Clinton County Fairgrounds: The Thrillseekers beat Killer Kyle & The Inferno ... Bambi defeated Peggy Lee Leather ... Tony Anthony defeated Kendo the Samurai ... Tracey Smothers defeated Bruiser Bedlam ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Chris Candido & Killer Kyle (managed by Tammy Fytch) ... Tony Anthony won a battle royal. (07-29-94)

—Millicent Gillingham

MICHIGAN

LINCOLN PARK—NWA at the Community Center: Scott D'Amore battled "Irish" Mickey Doyle to a double-countout ... Sabu defeated Steve Nixon ... Dave Dalton beat Kodiak ... "Irish" Mickey Doyle & Max Anthony defeated Scott D'Amore & Otis Apollo ... Sabu beat Al Snow in a ladder match. (07-23-94)

—Ernie Avery

TAYLOR—Midwest Territorial Wrestling at Sheridan Community Center: Scott Summers defeated "Roughhouse" Randy Rogers ... "Punisher" Rock Stevens beat "Kangaroo" Denny Kass ... J.T. Lightning defeated Steve Nixon ... "Live Wire" Sean Casey beat Johnny Paradise due to interference by Paradise's manager, Handsome Johnny; they split after the match ... The Missing Link battled Bastion Booger to a double-countout ... Machine Gun Kelly (with valet Cookie) pinned heavyweight champion Al Snow to win the title ... Doink the Clown & "Little Bomber" Ron Thiede defeated Dr. Jerry Graham & Punisher Pete in a tag team match ... The International Freedom Fighters beat tag team champions Road Warrior Hawk & Bobo Brazil Jr. to regain the belts when Chris Carter pinned Brazil. (07-16-94)

—Gary Woronchak

MINNESOTA

APPLE VALLEY—Pro Wrestling America at the Sports Arena: Ken Yates pinned The Ninja ... Charlie Norris defeated Randy Gusto ... Sam Houston beat Mr. Dynamic ... Jerry Lynn defeated J.B. Trask ... Heavyweight champion The Hater and Blake Beverly wrestled to a double-disqualification. (07-30-94)

—Eddie Sharkey

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—AAA/IWC at The Paramount: "Diamond" Dallas Page & Louie Spicolli defeated Indio Valiente & Bandido in a best-of-three-falls match, as Spicolli pinned Bandido in the third and deciding fall ... Heavy Metal, Tito Santana, & 2 Cold Scorpio beat Los Payasos, winning the third fall by disqualification when Santana was hit below the belt ... Mascarita Sagrada & Octagoncito defeated Espectrito & Jerrito Estrada in a midget match ... El Hijo del Santo & Octagon beat La Parka & Psicosis in two consecutive falls of a best-of-three-falls bout ... Konnan, Perro Aguayo, & Cien Caras battled Jake Roberts, Love Machine, & Eddy Guerrero to a no-contest when several other wrestlers ran into the ring. (07-24-94)

—Blaine Pomeroy

NORTH TONAWANDA—WWF at the Melody Fair Theater: Duke "The Dumpster" Droese defeated Adam Bomb ... World Women's champion Alundra Blayze beat Luna Vachon ... The evil Undertaker defeated Sparky Plugg ... Mabel beat Bam Bam Bigelow ... Doink the Clown defeated Jeff Jarrett ... The Heavenly Bodies beat The Smokin' Gunns when Jim Del Ray pinned Bart Gunn ... Razor Ramon defeated Intercontinental champion Diesel by disqualification. (07-24-94)

—Kelly Patrick

NORTH CAROLINA

BELMONT—Pro Wrestling Federation "Night Of The Champions IV" at the Armory: Junior heavyweight champion Brian Williams defeated Star Ryder ... Intercontinental champion Cruel Connection II defeated Terry Austin ... Masked Maniac beat Troy Conyers ... Texas Outlaw defeated Black Scorpion ... In the finals of a tournament for the vacant heavyweight title: Russian Assassin II (managed by Russian Assassin I) defeated Italian Stallion after Russian Assassin I interfered and used a flying neckbreaker on Stallion while the referee was knocked out. (07-29-94)

—Brock Chandler

CAROLINA BEACH—Mid-Atlantic Wrestling at Jubilee Park: David Renegade beat The Intruder by disqualification ... The Red Baron pinned Barry Ace ... Timber the Lumberjack and J.B. Jammer battled to a double-disqualification ... Joe Kid beat Bad Boy Dullah in a midget match ... Mad Dog Lynch pinned Rockin' Rico ... Dash Riprock & Jason Jarrett (managed by Kandi Kane) defeated tag team champions The Heartbreakers (managed by Marc Ash) to win the belts ... Heavyweight champion Bam Bam Coalson beat Gorgeous George III by disqualification. (07-29-94)

—Joe Wheeler

PFAFFTOWNE—AIWF at the West Central Community Center: Brian Danzig defeated King Cobra ... Dynamite Doug beat Robert Roma ... Indian Outlaw defeated Major Havoc by countout ... Lightweight champion Jumpin' Jimmy beat Chris Windham ... The Intimidator defeated Chuck the Kosher Killer ... The Tennessee Violence Authority beat Boston Terrier & Black Knight ... Sebastian Kane won a 15-man battle royal, last eliminating Black Knight. (07-23-94)

—Dean Puckett

DURHAM—Southern Championship Wrestling at Bethesda Gym: Bruce Newman defeated BK Johnny J ... The Bounty Hunter beat The Masked Assassin ... Mike Yamaha defeated Kid Vicious ... Viper beat Mitch Ryder by disqualification when Ice interfered ... Bam Bam Stevenson defeated C.W. Anderson ... Termination beat The Iron Chief & Country Boy Ellis when Kahn the Warlord pinned Chief ... Joe Kid defeated Bad Boy Dullah in a midget match ... Joe Kid won a battle royal, last eliminating Kahn the Warlord; he dropkicked Kahn, who went over the top rope. (07-16-94)

—Henry Dean

HICKORY—New World Wrestling at the High School: Venom defeated David Webb ... Too Funky beat Tenacious Tony ... "Twig Boy" Tony defeated Dangerous Donny ... Bill Snow pinned The Professor ... Jason Freeman pinned heavyweight champion Gentleman James to win the title. (07-15-94)

—Tara Kimrey

OHIO

TIFFIN—Ohio Championship Wrestling at the Gilmour Center, Tiffin University (afternoon): Shadow Bellisarius defeated TNT for the vacant light heavyweight title ... The Dark Riders beat tag team champions J.T. Lightning & Brett Powers when Lightning left his partner ... The Grim Reaper battled Tito Santana to a double-disqualification after Greg Valentine and Young Warrior interfered ... Young Warrior pinned heavyweight champion Biff Beverly to win the title ... Ron Garvin pinned Greg Valentine. (08-06-94)

—Jeff Gorman

CORTLAND—IWA Championship Wrestling's "Trumbull Rumble" at the Trumbull County Fair: T.C. Reynolds defeated Psycho Mike ... Doink the Clown defeated Ron Cumberledge. Cumberledge's manager, Laura Forbes, had given him her briefcase, but Doink grabbed it, hit Cumberledge with it, and got the pin ... The Haiti Kid beat Lil' Ninja in a midget match ... Intercontinental champion Preston Steele defeated Greg Valentine by disqualification when Jim Neidhart interfered ... Hacksaw Duggan defeated Scott Summers (managed by Notorious Norm) ... Jim Neidhart defeated Brutus Beefcake by countout when Notorious Norm prevented Beefcake from making it back into the ring. After the match, Beefcake cut Norm's hair. (07-13-94)

—Tim Harshman

OREGON

PORTLAND—Oregon Pro Wrestling Federation at the Mount Scott Community Center: Sumito beat Brian Brown ... John Rambo defeated The Riotmaker ... Cat beat Sabrina ... Buddy Wayne defeated Ole Olsen ... Buddy Rose beat Lou Andrews ... Heavyweight champion Moondog Moretti defeated Mike Miller. (07-16-94)

—Kenn Jones & Valerie Almond

PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH—WWF at the Civic Arena: Sparky Plugg defeated Pierre ... Adam Bomb beat Kwang the Ninja ... Jerry Lawler defeated Duke "The Dumpster" Droese by disqualification ... The Smokin' Gunns beat Well Dunn ... Razor Ramon defeated Intercontinental champion Diesel by disqualification ... Tatanka beat Irwin R. Schyster in a strap match ... Yokozuna defeated Mabel ... World champion Bret Hart beat Owen Hart. (08-05-94)

—Jim Bowman

SAUCON—American Commonwealth Wrestling "Saucun Slam '94" at the Saucun Fest: The Comet

defeated J.R. Willett ... Max Thrasher defeated Mad Mack Diesel ... Light heavyweight champion "Luscious" Johnny Graham pinned Lord Zoltan ... Johnny Gunn & Tommy Dreamer beat The Goodfellas ... Frankie "Third Degree" Burns defeated The Amazing Martine in a midget match ... Heavyweight champion T. Rantula pinned Glenn Osbourne ... Tito Santana defeated Rick Martel by disqualification when Martel brought a chair into the ring to use on Santana. (07-29-94)

—Timothy A. Walker

DOWNINGTOWN—World Wide Wrestling Alliance at the Farmers' Market (afternoon): Ace Darling pinned Bobby Piper in the final of a tournament to win the federation's first junior light heavyweight title ... Rick Ratchet won a 21-man, \$5,000 battle royal, last eliminating Super Nova. The win also gave Ratchet a title shot at Intercontinental champion Jack Hammer ... Glenn Osbourne (with The Master & Dazzlin' Dani) defeated Harley Lewis ... Mad Russian beat Mr. Motion ... Intercontinental champion Jack Hammer defeated Rick Ratchet ... Johnny Hot Body and Tony Stetson battled to a double-disqualification in a lumberjack match when all the lumberjacks entered the ring. Mad Russian was fined \$5,000 for punching the referee. (07-23-94)

—Dan Haney

MONTGOMERYVILLE—Eastern Championship Wrestling at the Farmers' Market: Tommy Dreamer pinned Pit Bull Psycho Mike (with Jason) ... The Sandman pinned Ray Odyssey ... Jason, Rockin' Rebel, & Chad Austin defeated Donn E. Allen, Hack Myer, & Dino Sendoff when Jason pinned Myer, who had been hit by Rebel's brass knuckles ... Tasmaniac pinned Pit Bull II (with Jason) ... Mr. Hughes pinned Tommy Cairo with a sidewalk slam ... TV champion Mikey Whipwreck beat Steve Richards by disqualification after Jason interfered ... Heavyweight champion Shane Douglas (with Mr. Hughes) pinned Tasmaniac (substituting for Sabu) ... Tag team champions Public Enemy defeated Bad Breed in a falls-count-anywhere match when Rocco Rock pinned Ian Rotten. (07-22-94)

—Bart Orkline

SOUTH CAROLINA

INMAN—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: Star Ryder won an eight-man battle royal, last eliminating Chris Hamrick ... Tag team champions Italian Stallion & George South defeated Terry Austin & Chris Hamrick when Stallion beat Hamrick by submission ... Heavyweight champion Russian Assassin II defeated Chief Jay Eagle ... Flaming Youth beat Black Scorpion ... Intercontinental champion Cruel Connection II defeated Gladiator II. (08-06-94)

—Brock Chandler

TENNESSEE

MORRISTOWN—United Atlantic Wrestling benefit card at the Talley Ward Recreation Building: Thad Clark pinned Jody Rivers ... Sweet Marvin beat The Storm Trooper ... Deke Rivers pinned Danny Little Bear ... Mongolian Stomper battled Chris Powers to a double-disqualification ... Tim Horner & Killer Kyle defeated Kendo the Samurai & Ninja when Horner pinned Ninja. (08-06-94)

—Bill Needham

KNOXVILLE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling "Night Of The Legends" at the Civic Coliseum: "Conan" Chris Walker pinned Mark Slinger ... Doug Furnas beat Killer Kyle ... Mongolian Stomper & Ron Garvin battled Bob Orton & Dick Slater to a double-disqualification ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated tag team champions Brian Lee & Chris Candido when Rick Morton pinned Lee

... The Thrillseekers beat The Heavenly Bodies as a bleeding Chris Jericho pinned Jim Del Ray ... Heavyweight champion Tony Anthony defeated Terry Gordy by disqualification ... Bob Armstrong, Tracey Smothers, & Road Warrior Hawk beat Terry & Dory Funk & Bruiser Bedlam in a coward-waves-the-flag match. (08-05-94)

—Bill Needham

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: Doug Basham defeated Dan Crolley ... Spellbinder beat Super Mario ... Koko B. Ware defeated Reggie B. Fine by disqualification when Spellbinder interfered ... Jimmy Valiant defeated Scott Bowden ... Tommy Rich beat Frank Morell & Kevin Christian in a handicap match during which Rich wore a blindfold ... Doug Gilbert pinned Southern champion Brian Christopher to win the title after Scott Bowden came to ringside and gave Gilbert a roll of coins, which he used to kayo Christopher ... Tag team champions PG-13 defeated The Eliminators ... The Moondogs, Jimmy Valiant, & Brian Christopher defeated Tommy Rich, Scott Bowden, Doug Gilbert, & The Bodyguard ... Spike Huber & Sid Vicious defeated Jeff Gaylord & King Kong Bundy when Vicious pinned Gaylord. (08-01-94)

—Mark Mitchell

LENOIR CITY—Southern Wrestling Association at the Memorial Building: Scott "The Train" Mills pinned Young Superstar ... Delaware Destroyer defeated "The Flying" Ramey ... "Jumpin'" Jeff Gann beat Junior Wright by disqualification ... "The Flying" Ramey defeated Rick Conners by disqualification ... Mike Powers pinned Crazy Bobby B ... Tom Pitner & Lynn Montana battled The Death Riders to a double-countout ... Tim Reed, Akron Al Hussain, & Lone Star beat Deke Rivers, Dennis "The Tank" Coats, & Crazy Bobby B when Lone Star pinned Bobby. (07-30-94)

—Bill Needham

MARYVILLE—All-State Wrestling at The Rhinestone: Storm Trooper pinned Russell Thompson ... Lynn Montana defeated Roadhouse Red ... Shogun III pinned heavy-weight champion Rick Cannon to win the title and was unmasked to reveal Tony Prichard ... Shogun I pinned Junior Wright ... Chic White beat Regulator Stone ... Crazy Bobby B & Dennis "The Tank" Coats defeated tag team champions Rick Conners & Lone Star to win the belts. (07-28-94)

—Bill Needham

CHATTANOOGA—NWA Championship Wrestling TV taping at Camp Jordan Arena: The Nightmare beat Brian Logan ... Rick Morton defeated Mike Golden ... Chris Candido (with Tammy Fytch) beat Brian Logan ... Women's champion Peggy Lee Leather defeated Bambi ... Curtis Thompson & Scott Studd beat The Nightmare & Mark Whittier when Studd pinned Whittier following a high-cross bodypress ... Aries, Siva, & Greg Valentine defeated Dory Funk Jr., Rick Garren, & Mark Von Erich when Garren submitted to Valentine's figure-four leglock ... Aries & Siva beat High Voltage when Siva pinned Devon Michaels after Aries hit him with a loaded mask ... Lightning defeated Lee Thomas with a powerslam ... Keith & Kent Cole beat Kenny Arden & Ritchie Dye when Keith pinned Dye after a double shoulder block ... Rick Garren & Mark Von Erich defeated Scotty Fernandez & Rawhead Rex ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Curtis Thompson & Scott Studd when Rick Morton pinned Studd after Jim Cornette (a TV analyst) interfered ... Robert Gibson pinned Chris Candido (with Tammy Fytch) after hitting Candido with Fytch's purse ... Scott Studd & Curtis Thompson defeated Ritchie Dye & Rawhead Rex when Studd pinned Rex ... High Voltage beat Jeff Reekler & Ken

Star when Beau Vegas pinned Star ... Aries & Siva defeated Lee Thomas & Bobby Hayes ... Rick Garren, Mark Von Erich, & Dory Funk Jr. beat Brian Logan, The Nightmare, & Mike Mercedes when Von Erich pinned Nightmare ... Bambi pinned women's champion Peggy Lee Leather to win the title ... Scott Studd defeated Kenny Arden ... Mark Von Erich & Rick Garren beat Mister Mister & Mark Whittier when Garren pinned Mister with a splash off the top rope ... Keith & Kent Cole defeated Bobby Hayes & Rawhead Rex when Keith pinned Hayes with a powerslam ... Aries & Greg Valentine (with Siva at ringside) beat Brian Logan & Mike Mercedes when Aries pinned Logan with a top rope legdrop ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Michael Hayes & Mike Golden when Rick Morton pinned Golden. (07-26-94)

—Marvin Ochs

KINGSPORT—Southern States Wrestling at the Lynn Garden football field (afternoon): Denny Cooley pinned Storm Trooper ... Stan Lee beat Beau James ... Heavyweight champion Mongolian Stomper pinned Eddie Bruiser ... Bam Bam Christian battled Skyfire to a draw ... The Young Guns defeated The Death Riders when Scott Sterling pinned Chic White. (07-23-94)

—Bill Needham

ELIZABETHTON—All-Pro Wrestling at the Gap Creek Community Center: Shogun Warrior pinned Silver Bullet ... The Tennessee Bad Boys defeated The Bounty Hunter & Sam Spade ... Cherokee Renegade & Mike Fair beat Chalg & Allen King when Renegade pinned King ... The Boys Are Back In Town defeated Mike Spade & Blue Angel ... Alex Shane pinned light heavy-weight champion Strom Shadow to win the title ... Black Widow & Denny Cooley beat Bo Dacious ... Tim Horner & Keith Hart defeated tag team champions Eddie Golden & Stan Lee for the belts ... The Troublemakers beat Ghost Rider & Midnight Mauler. (07-23-94)

—Bill Needham

JOHNSON CITY—National Championship Wrestling "Battle In The Summer Tour '94" at the Parks & Recreation Building: Terry Garvin (not the original) & G.I. Joe battled The World Famous Spoilers to a double-countout ... Keith Hart pinned light heavy-weight champion Eddie Golden to win the title ... Storm Viper pinned Bad Boy I ... Debbie Combs pinned women's champion Robbie Rage to win the title ... Tim Horner & Jeff Tankersly defeated tag team champions The Ultimate Superstars to win the belts, as Horner pinned Superstar II ... Ronnie Garvin beat Ivan Koloff to win the federation's first heavy-weight title. (07-22-94)

—Bill Needham

VIRGINIA

CHILHOWIE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the High School: Heavyweight champion Tony Anthony defeated Kendo the Samurai ... Tracey Smothers beat Killer Kyle & Jim Cornette in a handicap match ... The Thrillseekers defeated Bart & Brad Batten ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Killer Kyle & Chris Candido ... Tony Anthony won a pole battle royal, last eliminating Chris Candido. (07-23-94)

—Millicent Gillingham

WEST VIRGINIA

FAIRLEAH—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at Greenbrier East High School: The Thrillseekers beat Bart & Brad Batten ... Tracey Smothers defeated Killer Kyle ... Heavyweight champion Tony Anthony beat Kendo the Samurai in a no-disqualification match ... The Rock 'n' Roll

Express defeated Chris Candido & Killer Kyle. (07-22-94)

—Millicent Gillingham

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

CRABTREE, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at Two Rivers Campgrounds: Darkman defeated Headhunter II ... Crazy Eddie beat Cannibal ... Iceman defeated El Diablero ... Boris Khrushchev & The Ninja battled Warlock & Lucifer to a double-disqualification ... Heavyweight champion Dream Killer beat Syl Dancer ... Frank Blues defeated Phil Belanger in a best-of-three-falls match. (08-06-94)

—Bertrand Hebert

LA SALLE, ONTARIO—Border City Wrestling at the Pilot House: Steve Nixon defeated "Too Hot" Tommy Wonder ... Death Dealer and Ricco Rodrigues battled to a double-countout ... Kodiak beat Ray "The Crippler" Roberts ... Koo Koo the Wild Samoan defeated Justin Sane ... "Arrogant" Otis Apollo beat Pete the Pirate ... "Wild Thing" Davey Daulton (substituting for the injured Al Snow) & Scott D'Amore defeated "Kangaroo" Denny Kass & Machine Gun Kelly by disqualification in a grudge tag match ... Can-Am heavy-weight champion "Irish" Mickey Doyle beat Mike Legacy. (07-24-94)

—Daniel E. Curtis

CLOVERDALE, BRITISH COLUMBIA—West Coast Championship Wrestling at the Fairgrounds Products Building: Diamond Timothy Flowers beat Cheechuck ... The Trashman defeated heavy-weight champion Rocky Della Serra to win the belt ... Randy Tyler beat The Cobra ... Dillon Powers & "Gorgeous" Michelle Starr defeated Firefighter Adrian & Johnny Canuck ... Mighty Quinn beat Randy Tyler. (07-16-94)

—Stuart Kemp

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—River City Wrestling at Lord Roberts Community Club: The Moondog beat Vance Nevada ... TV champion Dr. Doom defeated Sluggo Smith ... Tag team champions Brian Jewel & Bobby Jay beat The Ghost Rider & Todd Bullet ... TV champion Dr. Doom defeated Caveman Broda ... Sgt. Tom Steele & Major Impact battled Dark Jason & Dave Petro to a double-disqualification ... Heavyweight champion Mike Stone beat The Executioner by disqualification when Tom Steele interfered. (07-12-94)

—Verne May

GERMANY

KEIL—WWF at Ostseehall: Sparky Plugg beat Adam Bomb ... World Women's champion Alundra Blayze defeated Luna Vachon ... Mabel beat Bam Bam Bigelow ... Lex Luger defeated Crush ... The Smokin' Gunns beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... Jeff Jarrett defeated Doink the Clown ... Razor Ramon beat Intercontinental champion Diesel by disqualification. (07-13-94)

—Fred Miter

JAPAN

TOKYO—New Japan at Sumo Hall: Manabu Nakanishi defeated Yuji Nagata ... Power Warrior pinned Takayuki Iizuka ... Shinya Hashimoto battled Shiro Koshinaka to a time-limit draw ... Hiroshi Hase beat Tatum Fujiwara ... Riki Choshu pinned Osamu Kido ... The Great Muta pinned Yoshiaki Yatsu ... Masa Chono defeated Yoshiaki Fujiwara ... El Samurai & Jushin Liger beat Shinichiro Otani & Gran Hamada when Liger pinned Otani ... Masa Chono defeated Power Warrior in the finals of the

G-I Climax tournament; he won a check for five-million yen.
(08-07-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

OMAGARI—Michinoku Pro Wrestling at the Gym: Wellington Wilkens Jr. defeated Hoshikawa ... Pitoro Siisleda beat Shiryu ... Taka Michinoku defeated Hanzo Nakajima ... Gran Naniwa, Jinsei Shinsaki, & Super Delphin beat Terry Boy, Kendo, & Sato when Naniwa pinned Terry ... Independent junior heavyweight champion The Great Sasuke defeated Super Boy.
(07-28-94)

—Hikari Inoue

TAGAWA—FMW at the Gym: Tetsuhiro Kuroda pinned Gosaku Goshagawara ... Shimizu pinned Ishikura ... Hesakatsu pinned Battle Ranger Z ... Tsuppari Mack, Shark Tsuchiya, Crusher Maedomari, & Combat Toyota defeated Nurse Nakemura, Keiko Iwami, Yukie Nabeno, & Megumi Kudo when Maedomari pinned Nakemura ... Mitsuhiko Matsunaga pinned Masato Tanaka ... Big Titan pinned Damian ... Johnny Doleado & Ricky Fuji beat Koji Nakagawa & Tarzan Goto when Doleado pinned Nakagawa ... Mr. Gannosuke, Katsutoshi Niiyama, & Atsushi Onita defeated Hideki Hosaka, The Gladiator, & Mr. Pogo in a barbed-wire, street-fight, tornado death match when Onita pinned Hosaka.
(07-28-94)

—Masanori Sukawa

TOKYO—All-Japan Pro Wrestling at Budokan Hall: Masao Inoue pinned Kentaro Shiga ... Yoshinari Ogawa, Mitsuo Momota, & Rusher Kimura defeated Ryakaku Izumida, Mighty Inoue, & Haruka Eigen when Ogawa pinned Izumida ... Giant Kamala II & Abdullah the Butcher beat Satoru Asako & Tamon Honda when Kamala pinned Asako ... Curt Beyer, Richard Slinger, & Terry Gordy defeated Tom Zenk, Johnny Smith, & The Eagle when Gordy pinned Zenk ... Takao Omori & Jun Akiyama beat Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas ... Stan Hansen pinned Johnny Smith after a clothesline ... Masanobu Fuchi, Akira Taue, & Toshiaki Kawada defeated Tsuyochi Kikuchi, Kenta Kobashi, & Giant Baba when Taue pinned Kikuchi ... Steve Williams pinned Triple Crown champion Mitsuhiro Misawa to win the belts.
(07-28-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

ESAWA—All-Japan Women at the Gym: Chapparita Asari defeated Rie Tamada ... Kaoru Ito beat Kumiko Maekawa ... Yumiko Hotta & Suzuka Minami defeated Kyoko Inoue & Sakie Hasegawa ... Aja Kong beat Kaoru Ito ... Etsuko Mita & Toshiyo Yamada defeated Minami Toyota & Mima Shimoda.
(07-22-94)

—Hikari Inoue

IWADE—IWA at the Gym: Original Jason the Terrible beat Matsuyama ... Canek defeated Oriental ... Leatherface beat Takashi Okano ... Johnny Gomez & Yukihiko Kanemura defeated Hiroshi Ono & Shoji Nakamaki in a bunkhouse match ... New Jason the Terrible beat Miguel Perez ... Dick Slater defeated Nobutaka Araya in a tournament final to become the IWA's first heavyweight champion.
(07-20-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

SAPPORO—JWP at the Gym: Hiromi Yaga beat Fusayo Nouchi ... Plum Mariko defeated Commando Boirshoi ... Devil Masami beat Mayumi Ozaki ... Dynamite Kansai & Candy Okutsu defeated Cutie Suzuki & Hikari Fukouka ... Cutie Suzuki, Plum Mariko, Mayumi Ozaki, & Hikari Fukouka beat Dynamite Kansai, Devil Masami, Hiromi Sugo, & Candy Okutsu.
(07-18-94)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

PHILIPPINES

MANILA—WWF at Cuneta Astrodome: The Kid beat Kwang the Ninja ... Luke Williams & Koko B. Ware defeated Barry Horowitz & Reno Riggins ... Rick Martel beat Jim Powers ... The Undertaker defeated Yokozuna by disqualification ... Tatanka beat The Barbarian ... World tag team champions The Headshrinkers defeated Timothy Well & Steven Dunn ... World champion Bret Hart beat Owen Hart.
(07-14-94)

—Fred Miter

PUERTO RICO

TRUJILLO ALTO—World Wrestling Council at La Concha: Mohammed Hussein defeated Gator McAllister ... Tahitian Warrior beat Pulgarito ... Isaac Rosario defeated El Exotico, his 81st consecutive loss ... TV champion Carlos Colon beat Fidel Sierra ... Tag team champions Rey Gonzales & El Bronco defeated The Bruise Brothers by disqualification after Eddie Gilbert interfered ... Universal champion Dutch Mantel battled Invader to a no-contest ... Eddie Gilbert wrestled Rey Gonzales to a no-contest in a lights-out match.
(07-16-94)

—Roberto Sierra

SOUTH AFRICA

SUN CITY—Sun City Super Bowl at the Resort: Dusty Wolfe defeated Terry Middoux ... Rod Price beat Toronado II ... Ricky Santana defeated Pink Panther ... Nightbreeder beat Apache Renegade ... Giant Warrior battled Lance Von Erich to a double-countout ... The Wrecking Crew defeated Danie Brits & Danie Voges when Rage pinned Voges.
(07-16-94)

—Winnie Fox

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY OCTOBER

GEORGIA

ATLANTA—At City Auditorium: Bulldog Lawley defeated Bobby Barrett ... Chief Crazy Horse & Chief Little Eagle beat Gypsy Joe & Jack Bence ... "Rubberman" Walker defeated Pedro Godoy ... Fred Blassie beat Mr. Moto in a match where karate blows were legal.
(10-05-62)

—Grady Roberts

MICHIGAN

DETROIT—At Olympia Stadium: Angelo Poffo beat Ken Dillinger ... Danny Miller & Ricky Cortez defeated Frank Adonis & Freddy Rogers ... Cora Combs beat Sarah Lee ... The Professor defeated Hurricane Hunt ... Big Bill Miller beat Yukon Moose Cholak ... Wilbur Snyder & Paul Christy defeated Blackjack Mulligan & Blackjack Lanza by disqualification ... Dick the Bruiser beat Baron Van Raschke.
(10-23-71)

—Gordon Horton

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: Karl Steif pinned Prince Nero ... Tim Woods defeated Joe Quinosis ... Pedro Morales pinned Skull Murphy ... Edouard Carpentier beat Hans "The Great" Mortier by disqualification ... Miguel Perez defeated Boris Malenko ... Killer Kowalski and Bobo Brazil battled to a draw ... The Fabulous Kangaroos beat Dory Dixon & George Drake ... Vittorio Apollo defeated Brute Bernard ... Heavyweight champion Bruno Sammartino and Gorilla Monsoon battled to a double-countout.
(10-21-63)

—Frank Kiernan

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press conference

(Continued from page 23)

Hogan recently?

APTER: Yeah, he's WCW World champion. Got your eyes on him, Sid?

VICIOUS: I've got my eyes on whatever it takes to propel me to the top. If it's by annihilating Hogan, fine. There's a score we haven't settled yet from my WWF days. But it could also be Vader, Flair, or Bret Hart. I don't care right now—that's down the road. Wherever I have to go, whatever I have to do, I'll do it. There's no stopping me this time, and anybody who tries is going to have to pay the price. That's the bottom line.

ELLNER: Sounds imposing, until your record comes into play.

VICIOUS: Forget my record. Everywhere I've gone, every time I've tried to do something, somebody's tried to get in my way. If it wasn't Flair, it was [WWF President Jack] Tunney, and if it wasn't them, it was somebody else. But I've had a lot of time to think about things and you know what I've decided?

ELLNER: Tell us.

VICIOUS: I've decided that I can't—and won't—let anybody get in my way. That's why Tatanka, Gaylord, and Lawler each got what they got. And whoever's next, they're next.

APTER: Exactly. Sounds like you have the right attitude,

Sid, but it seems you're a little bitter and angry. Don't you think you're wasting energy?

ELLNER: Are you serious with that question, Apter?

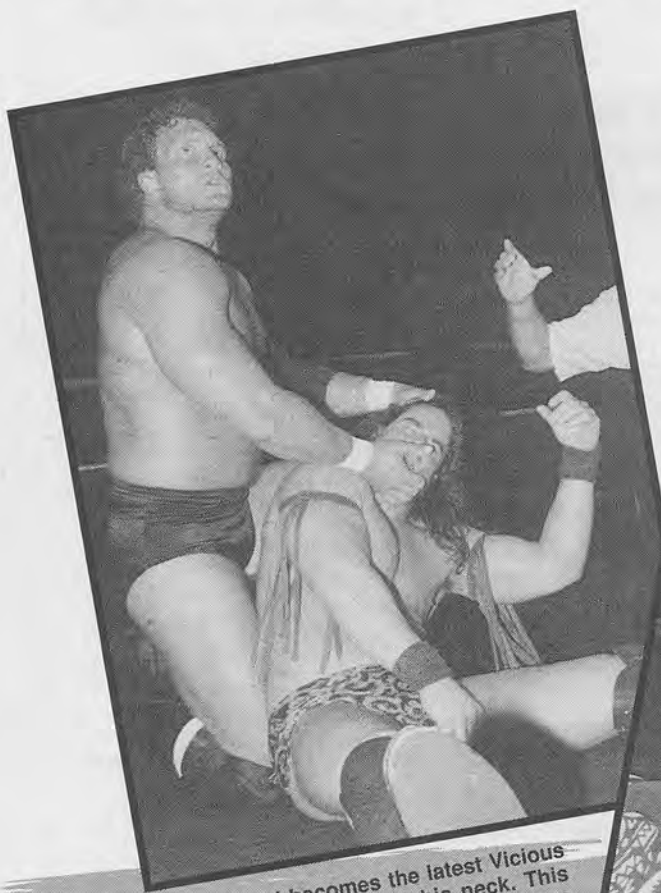
APTER: You have all the talent in the world, Sid. Why do you have to channel it in this manner?

VICIOUS: Because I wrestle best when I wrestle mean ...

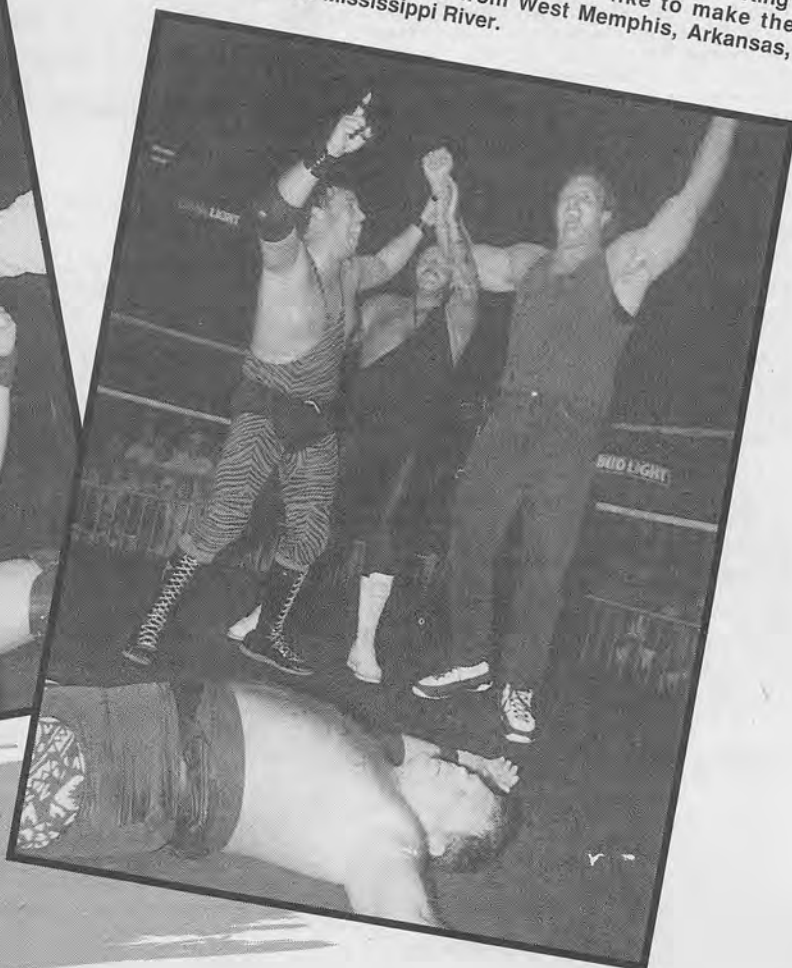
ELLNER: Exactly ...

VICIOUS: And it keeps me focused on what I have to do. I have to assume that everybody's out to stop me, because they are, and nobody wants me at the top because they know once I get there, there's no retreat. I'll never come down. I'll be the

While Jerry Lawler has for years been known as "The King" of Memphis wrestling, Vicious would like to make the moniker his own. He hails from West Memphis, Arkansas, just across the Mississippi River.



Jeff Gaylord becomes the latest Vicious victim, as Sid wrenches his neck. This time, Sid intends to let nothing—and no one—stand in his way.





Vicious has discovered that he wrestles best when he's mean. WWF star Tatanka is feeling the full force of his meanness.

the limit. But I can't worry about that right now. A lot of people are looking for me to prove myself. And a lot of people are going to get hurt while I'm doing the proving.

ELLNER: You realize, of course, that you haven't proved anything until you win a world title. That's going to be the bottom line for you, Sid, whether you like it or not.

VICIOUS: Doesn't matter. If it takes a world title, I'll win one. I don't like when people sometimes talk about me like I'm 50, because I'm not. Hogan hadn't won the world title by this time in his career. Neither had Flair. Lawler was about 90 when he won his world title back in the AWA. Everybody's always trying to rush me. Well, I have time.

APTER: Sounds like you're a man with a plan.

VICIOUS: No plans. I'll just take things as they come. And destroy them as they come.

PATERNO: And if you fail?

VICIOUS: I won't fail. People think I've failed already. Well, I haven't. You'll see.

ELLNER: Sid, we can hardly wait for that. □

longest-reigning world champion in history. They'll have to make new rules to stop me, and then they'll have to find some new wrestlers because I'll have destroyed them all.

PATERNO: I guess the question has to be asked: Do you have your eyes on the WWF or WCW World titles?

VICIOUS: I have my eye on the USWA title and that's all right now. I'm not looking too far ahead. I've made that mistake before. I can't assume anything. Lawler's going to do everything he can to get that title back and I've got to stop him. The way I see it, Lawler's the only thing that stands between me and greatness. If he gets what he wants, I'm gonna have a lot of proving to do. If I get what I want, the sky's



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P P C W
Pro Wrestling with an Edge

ringside

(Continued from page 7)



The Patriot controls Paul Roma during WCW action in Florida. Patriot and Marcus Alexander Bagwell have yet to take the World tag team belts from Roma and Paul Orndorff.

Big news from Japan: **Steve Williams** pinned **Mitsuharu Misawa** in Tokyo to win the All-Japan International, All-Japan United National, and Pacific Wrestling Federation titles—a trio of belts commonly called the Triple Crown. Misawa had held the belts for nearly two years. "Dr. Death" could be challenged very soon by fellow Americans **Terry Gordy** and **Stan Hansen**, both of whom are

former Triple Crown champs and big stars in the Far East.

Gordy also made his Smoky Mountain debut at the "Night Of The Legends" card in Knoxville, Tennessee. He lost to heavyweight champ **Tony Anthony** by disqualification. That card also featured a brutal six-man "coward-waves-the-flag" bout in which **Bob Arm-**



One-time WCW star Shane Douglas has dominated Eastern Championship Wrestling in recent months. He continually lambastes legends like Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair.

Championship Wrestling TV taping in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Among the stars on hand were **Jim Cornette**, **Greg Valentine**, **Chris Candido**, **Dory Funk Jr.**, **Keith** and **Kent Cole**, and **Tammy Fytch**. **Bambi** won the women's title on that card, beating **Peggy Lee Leather**.

In ECW news, **Shane Douglas** continues to reign as champ and continues to badmouth Hogan, Flair, and other well-known superstars. Look for **Cactus Jack** and **2 Cold Scorpio** to compete there on a more regular basis as well. **Bad Breed** is also back in the federation and feuding with tag team champs **Public Enemy**.

Mikey Whipwreck is no longer TV champ, even though he actually started using a few offensive moves. After one match, he was beaten with a cane by **The Sandman** and **Woman**, but was rescued by **Tommy Dreamer**. A few weeks later, he was pinned by **Jason** in a controversial match after **The Pit Bulls** interfered.

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □

strong, **Tracey Smothers**, and **Road Warrior Hawk** beat **Terry** and **Dory Funk** and **Bruiser Bedlam**.

The next night in Johnson City, Anthony successfully defended his belt against **Dick Slater**. **The Heavenly Bodies** were reinstated in SMW for both dates, but maybe they shouldn't have been. They lost to **The Thrillseekers** both nights. On the Johnson City card, **Lance Storm** had to wrestle much of the bout on his own because **Chris Jericho** had suffered a serious injury the night before.

Jim Crockett held his first NWA



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between falls

(Continued from page 5)



Tammy Fytch has a mind for managing, according to "PWI Hotline" caller Peter Black. He has seen her at work in Smoky Mountain Wrestling, and says she would be a boon to either the WWF or WCW.

After all the excesses of the last few years that have put wrestling at an all-time popularity low, perhaps the fans of Philadelphia are waiting for all of us to catch up. How I envy them!

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS

☎ FYTCH PITCH

Over the years, I've enjoyed watching the great women managers at work. Baby Doll, Elizabeth, Alexandra York, Missy Hyatt, Sherri Martel,

Woman—all were, and are, among my favorite wrestling people.

Add another to the list, someone who may well become the best of them all. Tammy Fytch has come from out of nowhere to rival Jim Cornette as Smoky Mountain Wrestling's top manager. That's a heck of a feat in itself. She's great to look at, and that's a factor I won't deny, but she has a superb wrestling mind. I can see how she's turned Brian Lee and Chris Candido into champions.

I'm fortunate that I can see Tammy at work firsthand, but I realize that much of the country isn't as lucky. I hope WCW or the WWF is smart enough to sign her soon. She would benefit either federation.

PETER BLACK
Kingsport, TN

"PERFECT"-LY LEGIT

I just wanted to applaud and commend you for your "perfect" interview with Curt Hennig in "Press Conference" (October 1994). I find "Mr. Perfect's" actions, calls, and decision at Wrestlemania X quite legitimate. He exercised good judgment and enforced the rules of refereeing.

I hope to see "Mr. Perfect" return to the squared circle in the very near future.

KELLIE MURPHY
Brooklyn, NY

BLAYZE AND BULL

I have always been a fan of women's wrestling and I am delighted that Luna Vachon signed Bull Nakano, the former Japanese champion, to face Alundra Blayze for the WWF World Women's title. I know that they have wrestled each other in the past and their bouts have been nothing less than exceptional. I am a fan of both Blayze and Nakano; both are great wrestlers. When the fans here in the U.S. see them go at it, they will be seeing some of the best wrestling around.

MARC PECORARO
Fair Lawn, NJ

☎ WWF: SEE THE LIGHT!

Most fans will agree that, pound-for-pound, The Kid is one of the finest wrestlers in North America. Trouble is, he doesn't have that many pounds on him, and thus probably will never win a singles title, despite his talents. I'm glad Kid and Marty Jannetty were able to win the tag team belts, albeit for only a week.

If the WWF were as progressive with its wrestling as it is with its marketing, it would institute a light heavyweight division for smaller wrestlers like Kid. There's no stigma attached to being a lighter competitor these days, nor should there be. The

smaller stars have a dynamism all their own and deserve some recognition. As a major Kid fan, I can only hope that the WWF comes to its senses.

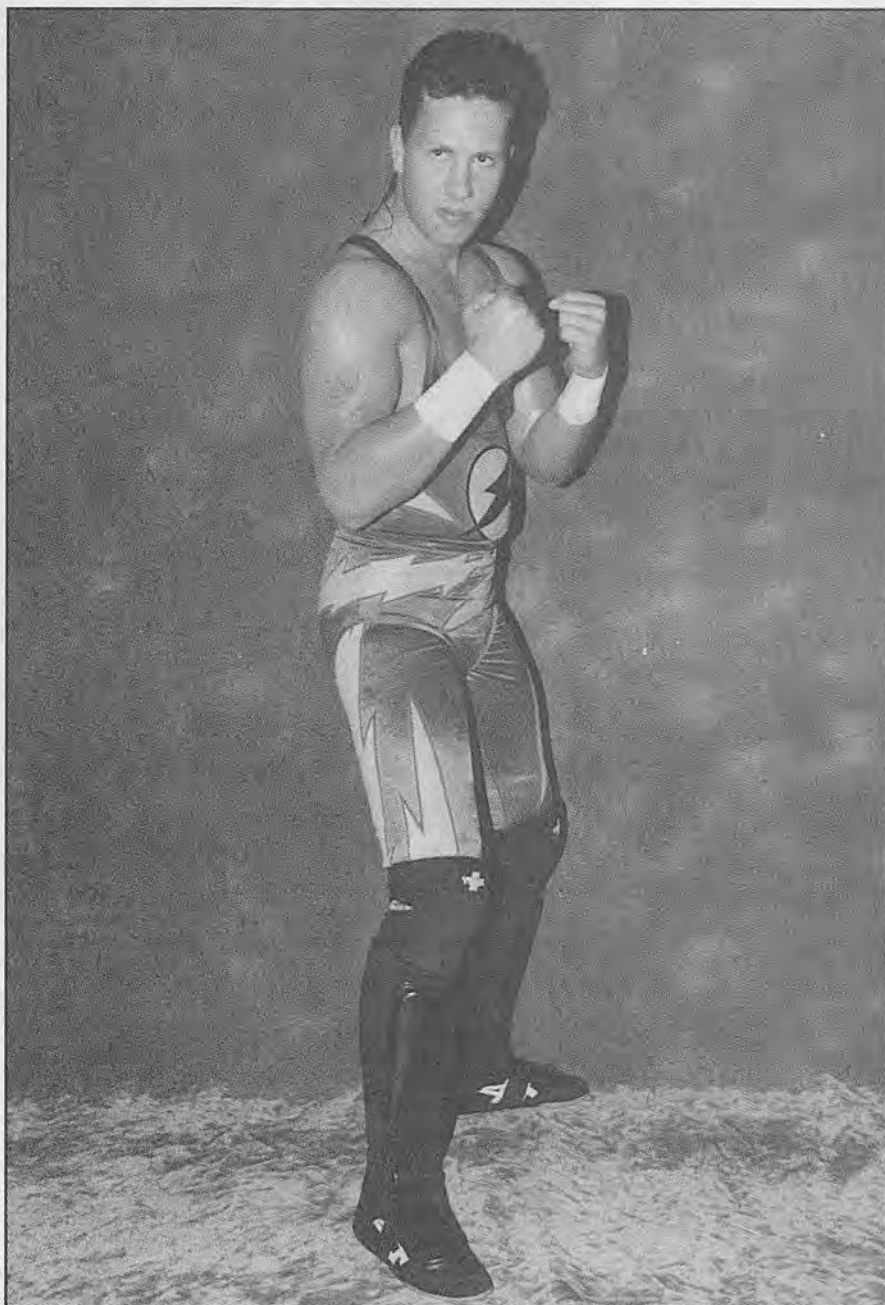
DALLAS CLARKSON
Vallejo, CA

SIDING WITH SAKS

I just read the October edition of "From The Desk Of ... Stuart M. Saks," which talked about the \$26.7-million awarded to Charles Austin and his family after he was partially para-

lyzed in a 1990 match against The Rockers. I agree with Mr. Saks. The jury was influenced by the appearance of Austin, and the waiver was ruled inadmissible as evidence. That waiver would probably have changed the verdict; it says that you must accept the risks of wrestling before you enter the ring. I believe that Austin should have been awarded the costs for hospital stay and complete costs of rehabilitation. Nothing more, nothing less.

JASON COX
Hendersonville, TN □



The Kid ranks among this continent's most respected wrestlers, but "PWI Hotline" caller Dallas Clarkson doubts he'll ever win a WWF singles title because of his weight. He urges the federation to institute a light heavyweight division.

from the desk of...

(Continued from page 8)

neutral site for the WWF and WCW. If the bout had been held in Atlanta or Charlotte, North Carolina—staunch Flair and WCW country—Hogan would have had the crowd against him for the first time since he was a rule-breaker more than a decade ago. It would have been interesting to see how he dealt with that.

The conditions were favorable and Hogan came through. Still, it was a magnificent achievement by a wrestler who has captured the hearts and imaginations of sports fans everywhere. I've never been the biggest Hogan fan, but I can't dispute his positive impact on the sport. Every sport needs one like him. It's been a long time since wrestling has had to go hunting for a superstar.

And now, for all those people who questioned Hogan's ability, there's no longer any question. He beat Flair in the middle of the ring. To me, it doesn't matter what happens next. I don't care if Hogan loses the title and never gets it back. His accomplishment at Bash at the Beach was one for the ages. For the history books.

Even Flair can't take that away from him.

Children do the craziest things, and one of the things this adult did when he was a crazy child was try to come up with new names for new things.

Like: What if there was an eighth day in the week? Otherday? Or 25 hours in a day? Would that extra hour be in the a.m., p.m., or somewhere

else entirely? How about new sports, new professions, even new subjects in schools. What about a 13th month? Decuary?

I thought these strange childhood games were a thing of the distant past until this company's owner came to me with a proposal. Actually, it wasn't

Unless we added an additional month.

But we couldn't do that to the calendar. We're wrestling journalists, not Vince McMahon. But there is some logic to it. After all, there are 52 weeks in a year, and if you divide that number by the four weeks each magazine is



Even those who aren't avid fans of Hulk Hogan have to be impressed with the "Hulkster's" magnificent victory over World champion Ric Flair in his first-ever match in WCW.

a proposal, but a strong suggestion. He wanted to publish a 13th issue of *PWI* for 1994.

Now, everybody knows there are only seven days in a week and 12 months in a year, and even the most bottom-line conscious company owner can't change that. We've heard about the four-day work week (why didn't he propose that?) and year-round school. But 13 issues in a 12-month year just doesn't fit.

to be on sale, the result is 13 issues.

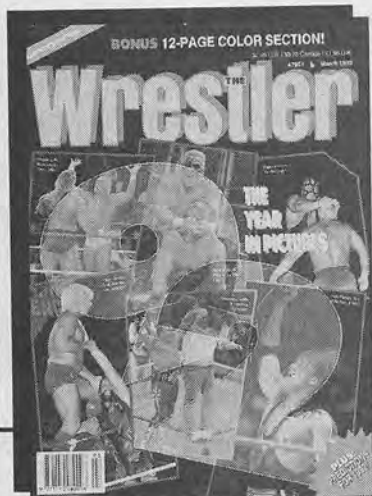
So we thought about it. And you know what? We came up with an answer. We added some "seasoning."

That's why this special additional issue of *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED* is labeled as Winter 1994. It's sort of a way station between 1994 and 1995.

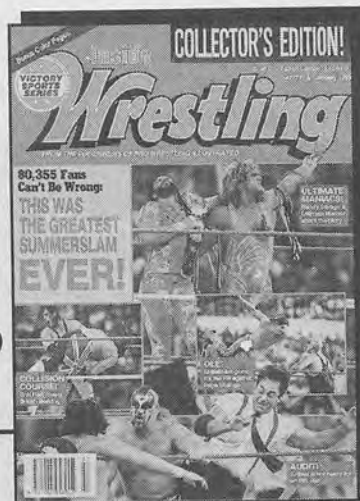
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MARCH 1994 WRESTLER features the full-color 12-page section, "1993: The Year In Pictures," detailing all the most important happenings, both in and out of the ring, of those notable 12 months in the mat sport.

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win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)

ble paying attention to the match between ACW light heavyweight champion "Luscious" Johnny Graham and Lord Zoltan. I didn't miss much anyway, as Graham earned an easy pin.

By now, I was waiting for someone to interrupt my night out—so this time, no one did. I thought perhaps all the weirdness was over

stranger who said he thought he knew me.

"Been a long time, man!" he shouted. "Hey, you never called me or anything."

"What?" I said. "Why would I call you, or anything? I don't know you. Sure you're not mistaking me for somebody else?"

"If you ever see Tommy again, tell him I said hi. We had some good times!"

Now I was perplexed completely. In a town I had never before visited, three people I had never seen in my life confronted me and insisted they knew me. In one case, I was a long-lost friend.

It was bizarre, but I tried to put it out of my mind. The next bout helped. In a wild contest, ACW heavyweight champ T. Rantula pinned Glenn Osbourne. Rantula later was fined \$1,500 for using his championship belt on Osbourne. A young fan seated to my right said if T. Rantula ever needs a valet, he should call Rita Repulsa from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers. Seemed like a good idea.

By the time of the main event I was beginning to feel back to normal. I was even glad. I had previously seen and interviewed both participants, Tito Santana and Rick Martel. *No surprises here*, I thought.

I was correct, but also disappointed. For years, Martel had been an honorable competitor, but has

been embracing rulebreaking for the last few years. Strictly on talent, he could often beat even someone as good as Santana. Now he was prone to bring chairs into the ring with him. Against Santana, that got him disqualified.

The card finished, I visited the locker rooms to say hello to both wrestlers. Santana was a gentleman, as usual, though he gently chided me about a perceived lack of coverage in *PWI*. "Talk to my editors," I said with a laugh.

When I saw Martel, he began giggling. The giggles soon turned to guffaws.

"Care to let me in on the joke?" I asked.

"Sure," he said. "Tell me, did you feel really at home tonight?"

Right away, I knew. "The Model" had set me up.

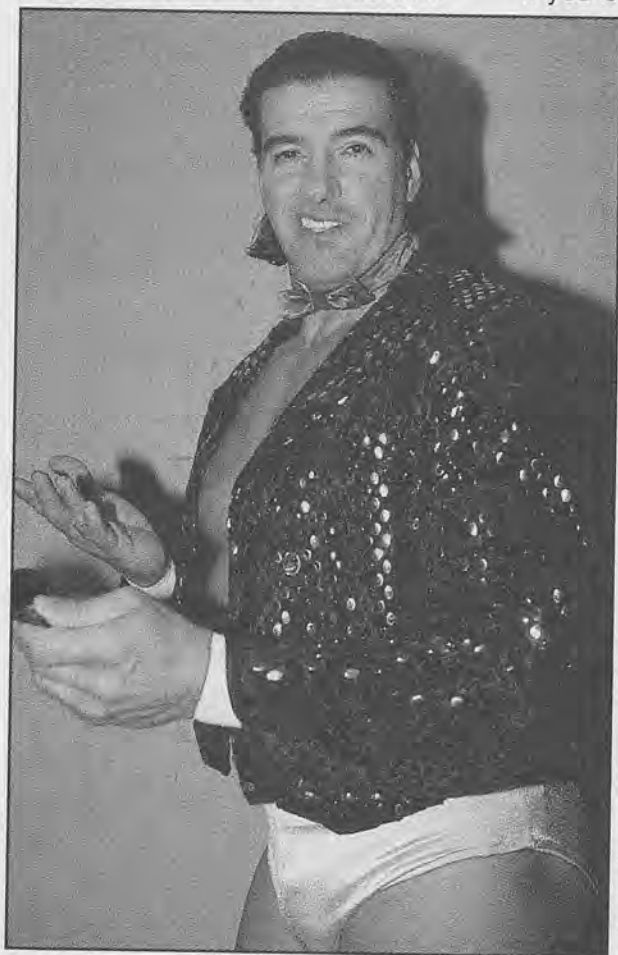
"I noticed you out in that audience, Andy," he said, "And, you know, with all the terrible things you and all your pals in New York write about me, I decided to have some fun." Apparently Martel didn't know our offices moved to Pennsylvania last year, but I wasn't about to interrupt him.

"I gave one of the ring boys some bucks," he continued. "I told him to throw some cash at a few of those hayseeds and have them make believe they knew you. That one guy was pretty good, wasn't he?" With that, Martel began to snicker.

"Nice, Rick," I shot back. "Maybe if you hadn't been so obsessed with getting me, you'd have won your match."

He shrugged his shoulders, threw me a smirk, and walked toward the showers. He'd had his fun for the evening.

I wasn't angry. In fact, I thought it was quite funny. It also taught me a lesson: Never buy a ticket again. If I'm going to be harassed, at least I shouldn't have to pay for it. □



Rodriguez knew Rick Martel first as a fan favorite and more recently as a rulebreaker. However, he did not take "The Model" for a practical joker.

and done with. That made it easier for me to enjoy the match, as Johnny Gunn and Tommy Dreamer defeated The Goodfellas. Good. They were a couple of wise guys.

As the ring announcer was introducing The Amazing Martine, a midget, for his match against Frankie "Third Degree" Burns, I received another visit from another

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(Continued from page 21)

since I've wrestled in Japan, I'm used to any cultural shock."

How about comparing IWC/AAA's wrestling to WCW? "Apples and oranges," replied Scorpio. "There's more emphasis on aerial ability in Mexican wrestling, which is right up my alley. But there's nothing wrong with the U.S. style, either. It all depends on the ability of the particular wrestler."

Santana, a Mexico native, teamed with Scorpio on both cards. The former WWF Intercontinental champion was pleased at the reaction from fans well north of the border.

"This is the wrestling of the future, my friend," he said. "Plenty of action, tough competition. If Americans can get past the cultural differences, this wrestling will do well here."

Octagon, who Gormley learned is not a hand soap but a talented masked star with a huge worldwide following, had nothing but good things to say about the experience. He and partner El Hijo del Santo split a pair of tag team matches.

"Considering there are relatively few Mexican-Americans in Chicago and New York, we did very well. I felt as if I were in Mexico City," he

said through an interpreter. "Our challenge now is to get other fans interested here, other Spanish-speaking communities and people who speak English. Our appeal extends far beyond Mexico. Our telecasts are shown around the world, and we're big stars in places like India. We can do that here, too, but it will take time."

And patience will be needed to make fans like Theodore Gormley the rule, not the exception. □



Former WWF star Tito Santana who teamed with 2 Cold Scorpio against Los Payasos, is pleased to see American fans exposed to more of his countrymen.



Perhaps only Jake Roberts is more despised by Mexican fans than Love Machine. After watching him attempt to bite Aguayo, it's easy to see their hatred is justified!

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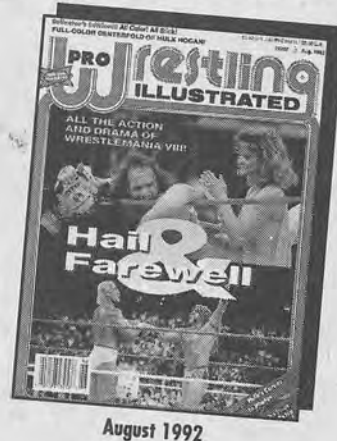
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off the top rope

(Continued from page 16)



Pedro Morales made Hulk Hogan look like a master of technical wrestling. But in New York, before his corps of Hispanic fans, he was virtually unbeatable.

know about the credibility of the WWF.

Dear Eddie,

First, let me tell you I think your column is the most interesting feature in the magazine. I wonder if you can explain all the hoopla over The Undertaker? I think he's just another Ultimate Warrior—short on brains and talent, long on gimmick. I think he's one of the most overrated wrestlers in the country.

DEVIN CHITTICK

Sheet Harbor, Nova Scotia

Dear Devin,

First, let me tell you I think your name is the most interesting I've heard this week, and for using the word "hoopla" correctly in a sentence you win a lifetime subscription to *Embalming Illustrated*. Look, Devin Chittick, the demographic profile of most wrestling fans is widely populated by pimply, ashen-faced, troubled adolescent males fascinated by the occult, satanic worship, heavy metal, playing CDs backward, and biting the heads of their younger

siblings. That's the reason for Undertaker's popularity.

Dear Eddie,

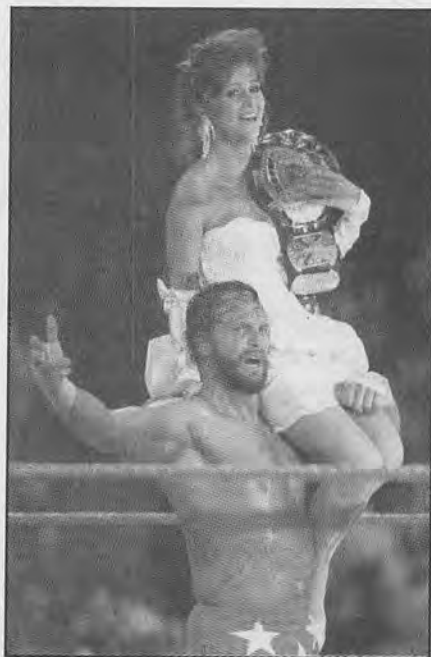
I used to enjoy watching Miss Elizabeth and "Macho Man" Randy Savage. Will she ever make a comeback? Will Savage wrestle as much as he used to?

JENNIFER LARKIN

Naples, FL

Dear Jennifer,

Alas, I, too, was smitten by the lovely Miss Elizabeth. But the beast slew the fair maiden, and the two haven't been the same since. Savage squandered his talent like a drunken longshoreman on pay day, and in the process corrupted his poor wife. Let's hope she has found peace and contentment away from his ugly clutches. I fervently hope Savage makes a full-time comeback. With his skills eroded, he will take the beating he justly deserves. □



I miss Miss Elizabeth, whose beauty brightened any arena she set foot in. Unfortunately, she bid adieu to wrestling while Randy Savage stayed on.

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August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. Bret Hart/WrestleMania X, Steiners, Albano, steroid trial.
October 1994/CENTERFOLD: Owen Hart. All-Star Challenge, Sting, Savage, Hennig, Fyfe, WWF in Japan.
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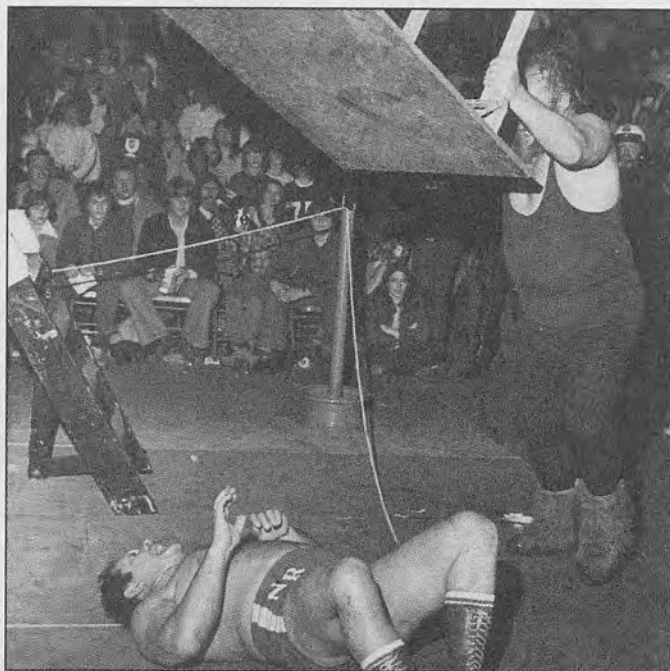
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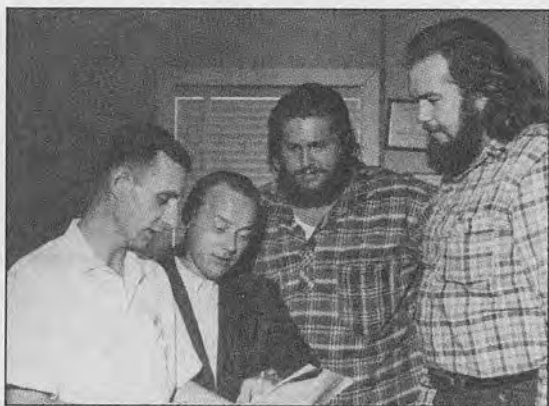
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Nelson Royal was a tough wrestler during the mid-1970s, but you can't blame him for feeling defenseless here. Rugged rulebreaker Eric the Red holds a ringside table aloft, and shortly after sent it crashing down upon his helpless foe. It required three security guards to stop him. Fortunately, Royal escaped any serious damage.



WHY THE FDA REQUIRES A PRESCRIPTION FOR ROGAINE

No, wrestler Bull Montana didn't really have all this hair (or is that fur?) in real life—this is the handiwork of Hollywood's makeup experts. They turned him into the king of the ape-man tribe for the 1925 silent science-fiction classic *The Lost World*. Would this have looked so intimidating in the ring? Maybe not. Remember Giant Gonzales?



THIS IS HIM IN THE EARLY DAYS? INDEED IT IS!

Wrestling broadcasting legend Gordon Solie (second from left) was in the early stages of his venerable career when this photo was taken. He goes over some plans for an interview during the telecast with director Jim Hillier and wrestlers Luke Brown and Jake Smith.



FOR MY NEXT TRICK ...

Did you know Doug Gilbert could levitate himself? He gives that impression in this 1971 photo as he executes a perfect dropkick on Assassin I during a tag team bout in Georgia. Such magic and more was necessary against The Assassins, who terrorized Peach State tag teams at the time.

Every other month, **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED** will pore through its massive photo collection to bring you some of the most unique photographs the mat world has ever seen!



FUNNY, THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE CHIPPENDALES

If you thought mud wrestling is a recent creation of nightclub operators, think again. It actually dates back to the 1930s on regular wrestling cards. Take this 1937 match in San Francisco, as Prince Bru Pinder (on top) battles Sandor Szabo for what was called the "Hindu Style Championship." They fought for 14 minutes in 12 tons of mud before Szabo (who won the NWA World title four years later) pinned Pinder.

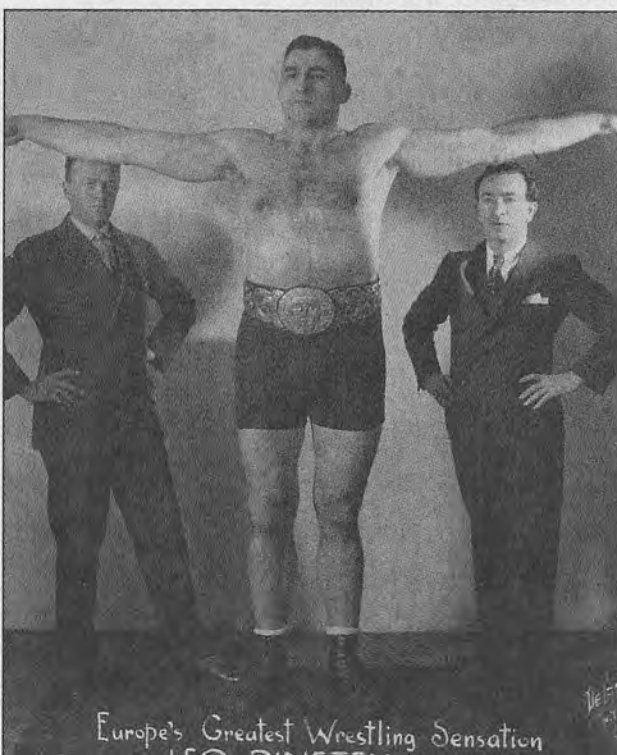
HE COULD'VE TURNED HUNTLEY & BRINKLEY INTO A TAG TEAM

Paul Jones was on the crew televising matches in Port Arthur, Texas, and was so impressed with what he saw that he decided to become a wrestler, too. However, he was smart enough not to quit his day job, and still worked part-time at KPAC-TV during the 1960s. Don't confuse this Paul Jones with the Georgia-based promoter of the same name.



HEY SABU, I CAN DO IT, TOO!

There's nothing really new under the sun. Flying wrestlers, for instance, were around long before Jushin Liger and Sabu were born. The aptly named Roy Thunder rolls in this 1953 match at Madison Square Garden, with Pedro Escobar as his target. Despite Thunder's storming, the bout was ruled a draw.



LET'S HOPE HE BOUGHT PLENTY OF RIGHT GUARD

At 6'8" and 282 pounds, Leo Pinetzki was certainly a big man. But just to quiet any remaining doubters, the man billed as "Europe's Greatest Wrestling Sensation" liked to show off his impressive reach—96 inches! The man on the right is noted promoter Jack Pfeffer.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's Top 10



Sting

TOP 10

- 1 BRET HART**
234, Calgary, Alberta
(1) WWF World champion
- 2 HULK HOGAN**
275, Venice Beach, CA
(2) WCW World champion
- 3 RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
(-) U.S. heavyweight champion
- 4 RAZOR RAMON**
287, Miami, FL
(8) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 5 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
(4) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- 6 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(7) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
- 7 STEVE AUSTIN**
241, Dallas, TX
(5) No. 6 contender: WCW World title
- 8 SHANE DOUGLAS**
223, Pittsburgh, PA
(-) ECW heavyweight champion
- 9 LEX LUGER**
265, Chicago, IL
(-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title
- 10 DIESEL**
356, Las Vegas, NV
(3) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

TAG TEAMS

- 1 DIESEL & SHAWN MICHAELS**
Combined weight: 590 pounds
(-) WWF World tag team champions
- 2 THE NASTY BOYS**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 3 PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA**
Combined weight: 488 pounds
(2) WCW World tag team champions
- 4 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(9) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
- 5 THE HEADSHRINKERS**
Combined weight: 520 pounds
(1) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 6 MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT**
Combined weight: 491 pounds
(4) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 7 BAM BAM BIGELOW & IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**
Combined weight: 616 pounds
(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 8 CACTUS JACK & MIKEY WHIPWRECK**
Combined weight: 458 pounds
(7) ECW tag team champions
- 9 PG-13**
Combined weight: 471 pounds
(8) USWA tag team champions
- 10 GEORGE SOUTH & ITALIAN STALLION**
Combined weight: 473 pounds
(-) PWF tag team champions

WCW

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—RICK STEAMBOAT**
(5) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 2—STEVE REGAL**
(3) 247, Blackpool, England
- 3—STING**
(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—RIC FLAIR**
(2) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—BIG VAN VADER**
(6) 450, Denver, CO
- 6—STEVE AUSTIN**
(1) 241, Dallas, TX
- 7—THE GUARDIAN ANGEL**
(-) 310, Cobb County, GA
- 8—ARN ANDERSON**
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—DUSTIN RHODES**
(8) 254, Austin, TX
- 10—BRIAN PILLMAN**
(9) 226, Cincinnati, OH

WWF

World Champion:
BRET HART

(C) 234, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—RAZOR RAMON**
(3) 287, Miami, FL
- 2—THE UNDERTAKER**
(4) 328, parts unknown
- 3—DIESEL**
(1) 356, Las Vegas, NV
- 4—OWEN HART**
(2) 227, Calgary, Alberta
- 5—LEX LUGER**
(-) 265, Chicago, IL
- 6—TATANKA**
(-) 250, Pembroke, NC
- 7—DUKE DROESE**
(-) 306, Miami, FL
- 8—BOB BACKLUND**
(-) 234, Princeton, MN
- 9—THE KID**
(-) 212, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**
(-) 248, Syracuse, NY

GLOBAL

Global Champion:
CHRIS ADAMS

(C) 228, Stratford, England

- 1—ROD PRICE**
(1) 265, Los Angeles, CA
- 2—ACTION JACKSON**
(3) 281, Dallas, TX
- 3—BLACK PRINCE**
(4) 243, Dallas, TX
- 4—SCOTT PUTSKI**
(-) 235, Austin, TX
- 5—ICEMAN PARSONS**
(2) 245, St. Louis, MO
- 6—TERRY GORDY**
(5) 289, Chattanooga, TN
- 7—JIMMY GARVIN**
(7) 242, Charlotte, NC
- 8—ALEX PORTEAU**
(6) 235, Dallas, TX
- 9—DEVON MICHAELS**
(8) 231, Dallas, TX
- 10—NICK GOLDEN**
(10) 238, Dallas, TX

USWA

USWA Champion:
SID VICIOUS

(C) 318, West Memphis, AR

- 1—DOUG GILBERT**
(5) 241, Lexington, TN
- 2—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**
(1) 230, Memphis, TN
- 3—AUSTIN IDOL**
(-) 240, Tampa, FL
- 4—JERRY LAWLER**
(3) 234, Memphis, TN
- 5—SPIKE HUBER**
(-) 234, Indianapolis, IN
- 6—TOMMY RICH**
(4) 248, Hendersonville, TN
- 7—KOKO B. WARE**
(-) 229, Union City, TN
- 8—JEFF GAYLORD**
(2) 280, St. Louis, MO
- 9—SPELLBINDER**
(8) 246, parts unknown
- 10—DOUG BASHAM**
(10) 228, Memphis, TN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
275, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 BRET HART**
234, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 RAZOR RAMON**
287, Miami, FL
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 5 RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 6 DUSTIN RHODES**
254, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular
- 7 LEX LUGER**
265, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 8 TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksport, TN
Last issue: unrated
- 9 THE KID**
212, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: unrated
- 10 RANDY SAVAGE**
237, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 BIG VAN VADER**
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2 TATANKA**
250, Pembroke, NC
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 3 BOB BACKLUND**
234, Princeton, MN
Last issue: unrated
- 4 ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: unrated
- 5 SHAWN MICHAELS**
234, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: unrated
- 6 BUNKHOUSE BUCK**
239, Bucksport, TN
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
- 7 OWEN HART**
227, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 8 STEVE AUSTIN**
241, Dallas, TX
Last issue: unrated
- 9 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 10 BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:
TONY ANTHONY

(C) 235, Bucksport, TN

- 1-KILLER KYLE**
(6) 303, Atlanta, GA
- 2-TRACEY SMOTHERS**
(1) 227, Atlanta, GA
- 3-RICK MORTON**
(7) 228, Memphis, TN
- 4-CHRIS CANDIDO**
(3) 226, Carteret, NJ
- 5-BRUISER BEDLAM**
(5) 235, Newark, NJ
- 6-LANCE STORM**
(-) 231, Memphis, TN
- 7-BOB ARMSTRONG**
(-) 227, Marietta, GA
- 8-ROBERT GIBSON**
(9) 225, Pensacola, FL
- 9-THE INFERNO**
(-) 235, parts unknown
- 10-STEVE SKYFIRE**
(-) 229, Knoxville, TN

ECW

ECW Champion:

SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

- 1-SABU**
(1) 220, Bombay
- 2-TERRY FUNK**
(2) 247, Amarillo, TX
- 3-TOMMY DREAMER**
(4) 245, Yonkers, NY
- 4-CACTUS JACK**
(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
- 5-2 COLD SCORPIO**
(-) 222, Denver, CO
- 6-911**
(-) 310, parts unknown
- 7-JASON**
(-) 216, Philadelphia, PA
- 8-MR. HUGHES**
(6) 308, Kansas City, KS
- 9-TOMMY CAIRO**
(9) 257, Philadelphia, PA
- 10-TASMANIAC**
(5) 221, Tasmania

For period ended August 30, 1994

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1-BRET HART..... | 88 points |
| 2-RIC FLAIR..... | 86 points |
| 3-RAZOR RAMON | 52 points |
| 4-STING | 51 points |
| 5-STEVE AUSTIN | 42 points |

TAG TEAMS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1-THE NASTY BOYS | 80 points |
| 2-THE HEADSHRINKERS | 59 points |
| 3-THE QUEBECERS | 49 points |
| 4-THE HEAVENLY BODIES | 32 points |
| 5-PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA | 32 points |

AAA: AAA Champion—Konnan; 1—El Hijo Del Santo; 2—Blue Panther; 3—The Love Machine; 4—Perro Aguayo; 5—Psicosis; 6—La Parka; 7—Eddy Guerrero; 8—Octagon; 9—Cien Caras; 10—Rey Mysterio Jr..

IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Tito Santana; 1—Tony Atlas; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Hacksaw Duggan; 4—Rick Martel; 5—Osamu Nishimura; 6—The Funny Clown; 7—Vic Steamboat; 8—Ray Odyssey; 9—Sabu; 10—Al Snow.

MTW: MTW Champion—Machine Gun Kelly; 1—Al Snow; 2—Bobo Brazil Jr.; 3—Sean Casey; 4—Bastion Booger; 5—Chris Carter; 6—Denny Kass; 7—Johnny Paradise; 8—Scott Summers; 9—Sabu; 10—Scott The Rock.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Charlie Norris; 2—Nailz; 3—Hawk; 4—Blake Beverly; 5—Tommy Ferrara; 6—Storm Trooper Aaron; 7—Storm Trooper Willie; 8—Jerry Lynn; 9—Derrick Dukes; 10—Punisher.

PWF: PWF Champion—Russian Assassin II; 1—Italian Stallion; 2—George South; 3—Star Ryder; 4—Flaming Youth; 5—Cruel Connection II; 6—Brian Williams; 7—Troy Conyers; 8—Gladiator II; 9—Terry Austin; 10—Austin Steele.

WWA: WWA Champion—Friendly Frank; 1—King Kong Bundy; 2—Abudiah Singh; 3—Ray Odyssey; 4—Boy Gone Bad; 5—Ed Atlas; 6—Chris Weider; 7—Akita Kaos; 8—Gus the Greek; 9—Ramblin' Rich; 10—Duane Gill.

WWWA: WWWA Champion—Brutus Beefcake; 1—Jack Hammer; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Ax; 4—Nailz; 5—Hawk; 6—Sid Vicious; 7—Abdullah the Butcher; 8—The Zombie; 9—Blast; 10—Harley Lewis.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Out of their element ... or right at home? If you've looked at our ratings from the last few issues, you've noticed that many of the same wrestlers make appearances in our Most Popular and Most Hated rankings month after month.



Tony Anthony

Bret Hart, Sting, Rick Steamboat, and Randy Savage have been among the most beloved athletes in the sport for some time. They deserve that status, for they usually wrestle within the rules and have great success as fan favorites.

But look at some of the other wrestlers who make frequent appearances on the Most Popular list: **Razor Ramon, The (original) Undertaker, Lex Luger, Tony Anthony, and Cactus Jack.**

Ramon is a consummate brawler who likes to be known as the "Bad Guy." Undertaker dresses all in black, is fascinated by death, and uses maneuvers such as chokeslams and "tombstone" piledrivers. Luger is a cocky type with an extensive rulebreaking past. Anthony, who loves chain matches and has very few scientific skills, goes by the name "Dirty White Boy."

Ramon, Anthony, and Jack have all won titles since turning fan favorite and are wrestling as well as (or better) than ever. Some fans say Undertaker has lost some of his intimidating aura as a fan favorite, while Luger has come up short in both WWF World title matches since becoming a fan favorite.

Conversely, **Big Van Vader, Yokozuna, Irwin R. Schyster, and Steve Austin** don't hear many cheers because they haven't earned them. They show little regard for the rules despite their skills, don't care what fans think, and will stop at nothing to win matches and titles. They break the rules because they are good at it.

Among the other regulars on the Most Hated list are **Owen Hart, Jeff Jarrett, Jerry Lawler, and Nikolai Volkoff.** Recently, even **Bob Backlund** turned rulebreaker. All might be better off as fan favorites.

Owen is a member of one of wrestling's most respected families. As recently as last fall, WWF fans loved "The Rocket" for his aerial skills and tremendous sportsmanship.

Jarrett and Lawler have been heroes in USWA territory for years. Indeed, Lawler is known as "King" of Memphis. Yet for some rea-

son, both despise WWF fans and fan favorites.

Volkoff had success as a rulebreaker earlier in his career but had won the respect of most fans recently. He turned against them to join **Ted DiBiase's** camp and thereby support his impoverished family.

Then there's the strange case of Backlund. He was one of the all-time great pure scientific and defensive wrestlers until he swore off his allegiances to the fans, claiming they had changed. He was once hesitant to throw punches at his opponents, but he's now a very different man.

Jarrett and Lawler have been no better than mediocre as rule-breaking WWF wrestlers and haven't matched their USWA success yet. It remains to be seen if Hart and Backlund can succeed over the long haul with their new, bitter attitudes, though Hart has been a top contender to his brother Bret's World title for most of 1994 and has received numerous title shots.

And there are other hated wrestlers who many people think would be better off as fan favorites: **Tommy Rich, Iceman Parsons, and Diesel**, just to name a few.

This same phenomenon carries over to tag teams. **The Headshrinkers** won the WWF World tag team title as fan favorites after wrestling for years as rulebreakers. They still wrestle recklessly and mercilessly, but for now are in fans' good graces. **The Nasty Boys**, one of the meanest and dirtiest tag teams in the world today, have again converted to fan favoritism. **Cactus Jack** and **Kevin Sullivan** somehow won over the WCW faithful and held the World tag team title for nearly two months.

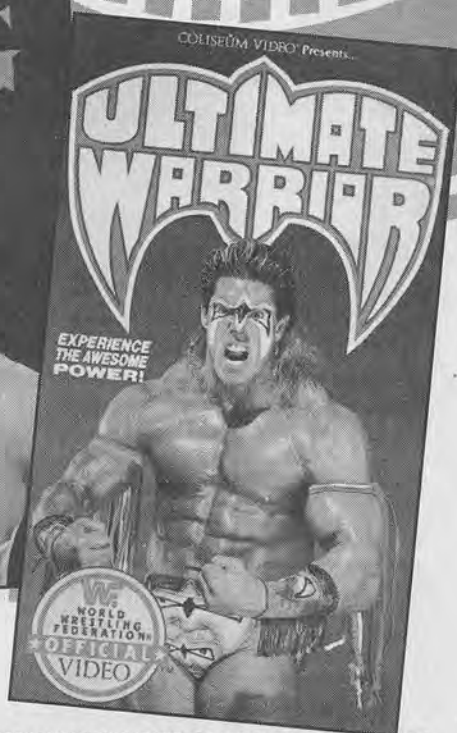
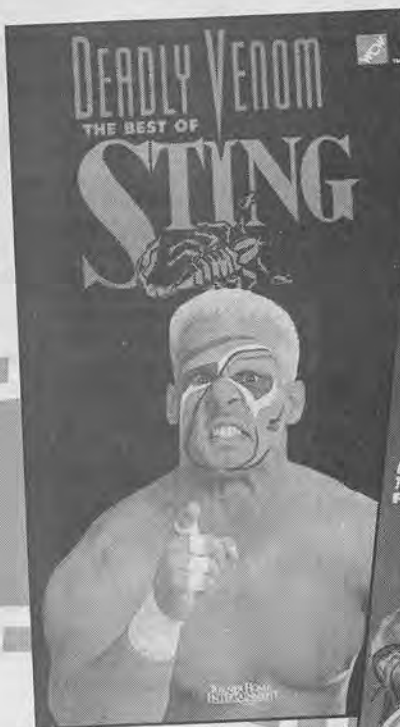


Yokozuna

Do you think Owen Hart, Bob Backlund, and the others we've mentioned will remain rulebreakers and among our Most Hated? Do you expect Razor Ramon, Tony Anthony, *et al* to succeed in the long run as fan favorites, even though their styles seem to steer them toward rule-

breaking?
We need your input! Tell us what you think about the issues we've raised here. Also, which rulebreakers do you think would be better off as fan favorites, or vice versa? Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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STING: DEADLY VENOM (pictured)

Packed with highlights of the "Stinger's" greatest moments! See his Great American Bash '91 chain match with Nikita Koloff, his SuperBrawl II WCW World title victory over Lex Luger, his amazing Beach Blast '92 brawl with Cactus Jack, grueling battles with Big Van Vader at SuperBrawl III and Starrcade '92, the Halloween Havoc '92 pole match with Jake Roberts, War Games action, and more! Approx. 30 minutes. \$12.95.

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Experience the awesome power of The Ultimate Warrior as he battles Papa Shango, Skinner, and Brian Knobs! Watch him team with The Undertaker to take on Shango and Berzerker! And no Warrior tape would be complete without his stirring WWF World title victory over Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania VI—voted 1990 Match of the Year by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers! Approx. 60 minutes. \$12.95.

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WRESTLING ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ENQUIRER

JACQUES ROUGEAU ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT

**Will Battle Former Teammate
Pierre In Montreal**

By DAVE LENKER

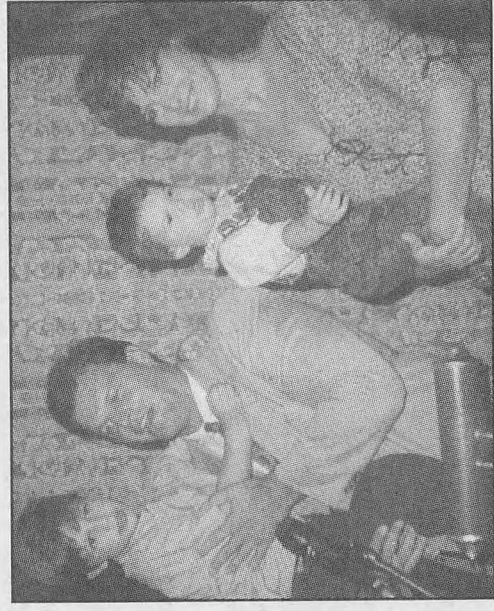
MONTREAL—Former WWF Intercontinental champion Jacques Rougeau Jr., the latest link in the Rougeau family wrestling tradition, has announced his retirement. He will wrestle his final match on October 21 at The Forum, facing former Quebecer teammate Pierre to headline a WWF card.

Rougeau, 34, says he is leaving wrestling for family reasons. He and his wife Suzanne have two sons: Jean-Jacques, 4½, and Cedric, 1½. In addition, Rougeau is opening a sports complex in nearby Rawdon, Quebec, and will host a show on Montreal radio station CKOI.

Jacques and Pierre spent more than six months in three reigns as WWF World tag team champions before losing the belts to The Headshrinkers this spring on WWF *Monday Night Raw*. They later had a falling out after a bout in Montreal. Pierre and manager Johnny Polo viciously attacked Jacques until his brother Raymond cleared the ring; Jacques was carried back to the dressing room on a stretcher.

Rougeau, the youngest son of Quebec wrestling legend Jacques Rougeau Sr., made his pro debut in 1977—the year his father announced his retirement. He excelled in independent federations before joining the WWF in 1986. He won the I-C belt as The Mountie on January 17, 1992, defeating Bret Hart. However, two days into his reign, he was beaten by Roddy Piper.

Three generations of Rougeau family members have wrestled, beginning with Jacques' great-uncle Eddy Auger in 1946.



Jacques Rougeau Jr. (with sons Jean-Jacques and Cedric, and wife Suzanne) will say *au revoir* to wrestling after a match against former teammate Pierre in October. He plans to open a sports complex.

Duggan, Honky Tonk Man Now In WCW

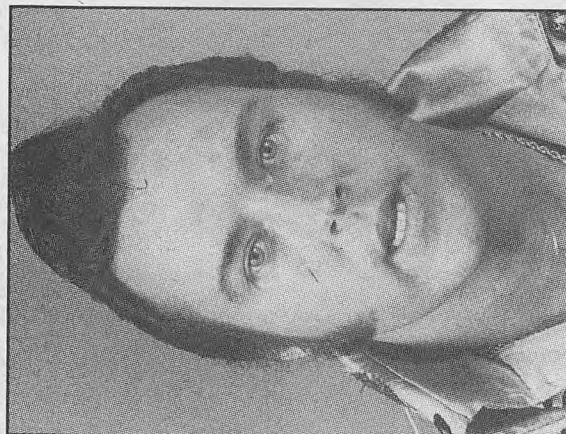
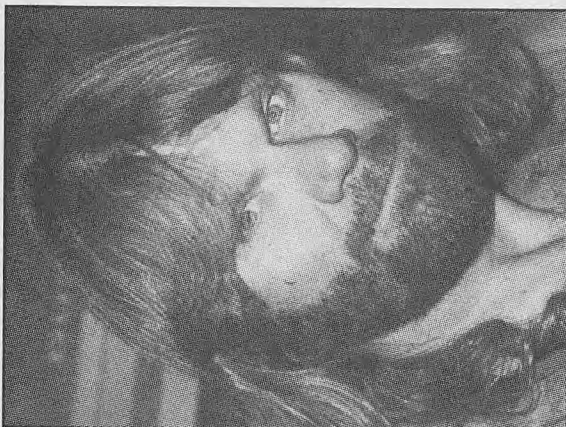
By DAVE ROSENBAUM

ATLANTA—Former WWF stars continue to resurface in WCW. The two latest are Hacksaw Duggan and Honky Tonk Man, joining new World champion Hulk Hogan and announcer Gene Okerlund, among many others.

Duggan and Hogan have been friends for years, and Duggan celebrated with the "Hulkster" after he won the World title from Ric Flair on July 17. "I'm glad to be in WCW," said Duggan, who made his debut with a pair of victories at a TV taping. "I'm ready to make some waves and stand up for America.

Prepare to wave those 2x4s." Honky Tonk Man, whose reign as Intercontinental champ lasted a record 14 months 27 days from 1987 through 1988, also has WCW ties. His former manager, Jimmy Hart, now guides Hogan's career.

"I'd love to have my old buddy Jimmy as my manager again, but I really don't want to share him with a no-talent like Hogan," Honky Tonk said. "Jimmy's going to have to make up his mind one way or the other. He knows what we accomplished before. Imagine what we could do now!"



WWF fans of several years ago recall watching Hacksaw Duggan (above left) and Honky Tonk Man (above right). Both have signed with WCW, Duggan as an ally of World champion Hulk Hogan and Honky Tonk as a potential rival.

Fytch Fires Lee After Tag Loss

BY V.J. PATERNO

SALTVILLE, VA—Tammy Fytch and Brian Lee have gone their separate ways. The manager fired Lee in a fit of anger after he and Chris Candido lost their Smoky Mountain tag team belts to The Rock 'n' Roll Express at a TV taping.

"I've had enough of him and his incompetence!" Fytch fumed. "Let Brian see what he can do on his own, without my expert guidance. Like most men, he won't get very far."

The August 8 loss marked the third time in four days the SMW tag belts had changed hands. Lee and Candido had lost to the Rock 'n' Rolls on August 5 in Knoxville, Tennessee, but won the belts back the next night in nearby Johnson City. "It's too volatile for my tastes!" Fytch screamed.

Lee played an important role in Fytch's rise to prominence. In 1993, the rookie manager persuaded him to become a rulebreaker. He soon won the SMW heavyweight title from Tracey Smothers and held it for seven months. In recent months he had teamed with Candido, who is also a member of Fytch's stable.

"If Tammy thinks I'm one of her toys, she's sadly mistaken," Lee said. "I was a champion before her, and I'll be one after her. I'll be back soon to teach her a lesson. That's all I'll say."

Lee said he would do anything necessary to eliminate Candido and Fytch.

AROUND THE GLOBE

TOKYO, JAPAN

Steve Williams, one of the most popular Americans wrestling in Japan, is now Triple Crown champion. Williams pinned Mitsuharu Misawa on an All-Japan Pro Wrestling card at famed Budokan Hall. He becomes only the third U.S. wrestler to win the belts. Stan Hansen is a three-time Triple Crown champion, while Terry Gordy captured the honors twice.

SUN CITY, SOUTH AFRICA

With the fall of apartheid, this once-controversial resort now hosts cards featuring wrestlers from all over the world. The recent Sun City Super Bowl event included independent stars from the U.S. and overseas. In the feature match, The Wrecking Crew defeated local favorites Danie Brits and Danie Voges when Rage pinned Voges.

TRUJILLO ALTO, PUERTO RICO

Who is the world's most inept wrestler? The Caribbean-based World Wrestling Council has a very viable candidate. He's El Exotico, whose loss to Isaac Rosario was his 81st straight. "He's a terrible wrestler, no doubt about it," says a local wrestling correspondent. "The joke here is that the day he wins, San Juan will receive a foot of snow."

HOT SHOT

You can't keep the all-time greats out of the ring! Seven-time NWA World champ Harley Race is always there to land a hand to his protege, Big Van Vader, even if it means leaping off the top rope. Never known for his aerial ability, Race showed a hint of fear on his face as he not-so-gracefully splashed onto The Guardian Angel to break up his attempted pin of Vader. He accomplished his goal, but Angel got a victory by disqualification.

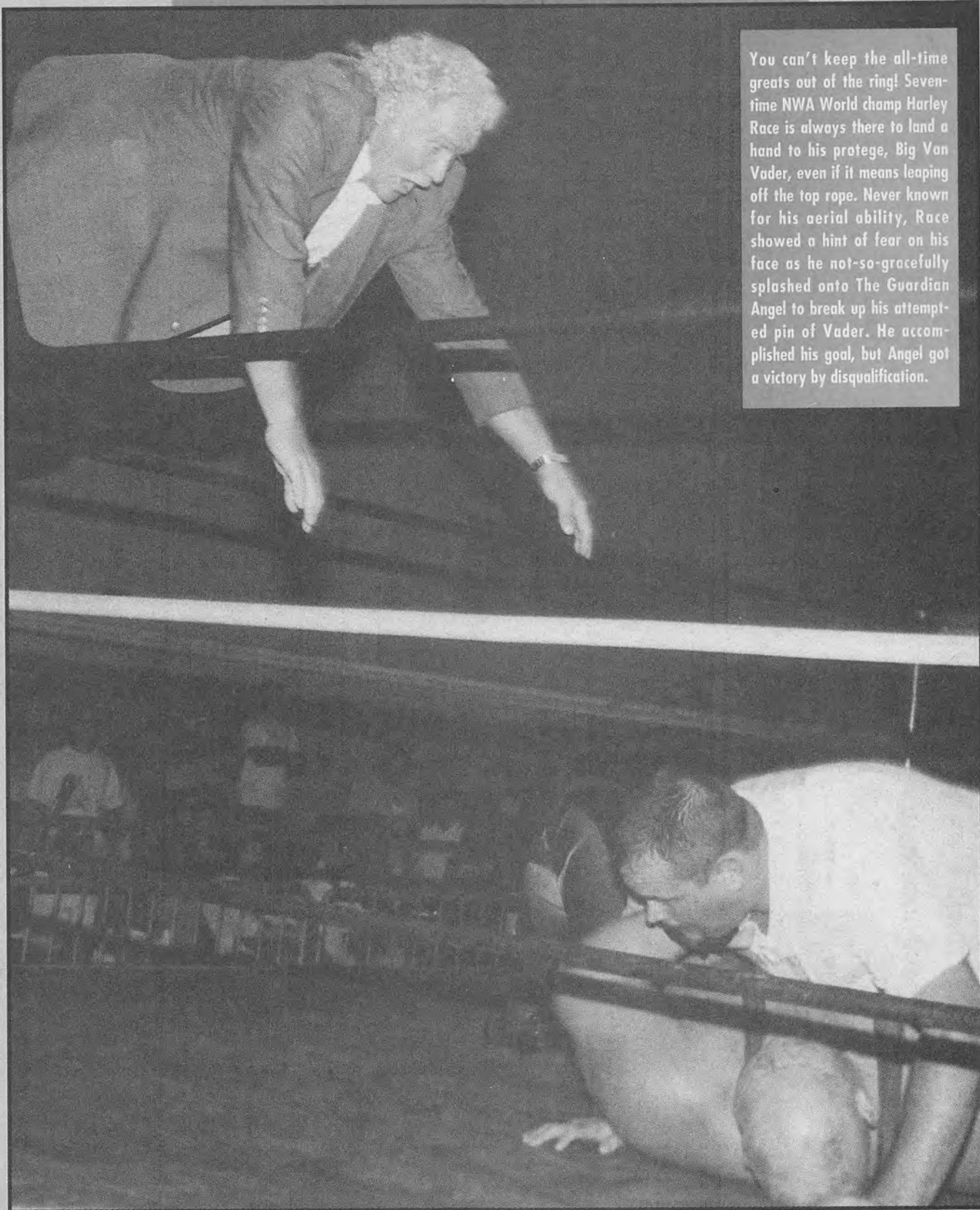


Photo by Duane Long

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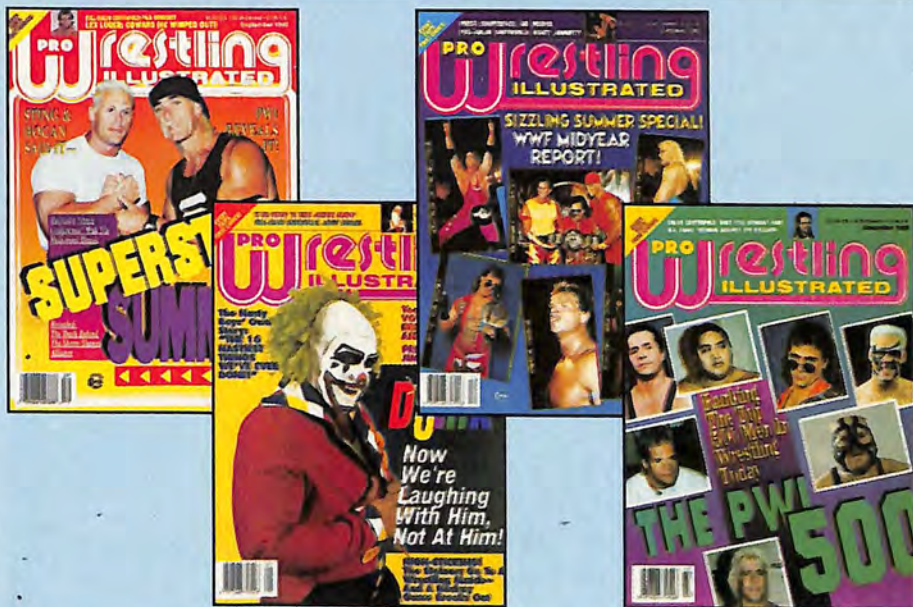
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